



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

June 22, 2012

MR. JACOB SHEMKOVITZ
MUCKROCK NEWS
DEPT MR 1054
POST OFFICE BOX 55819
BOSTON, MA 02205 5819

Subject: DONENFELD, HARRY

FOIPA No. 1181759- 000

Dear Mr. Shemkovitz:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Form OPCA-16a:

Section 552

Section 552a

☐ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

☐ (d)(5)

☐ (b)(2)

☐ (b)(7)(B)

☐ (j)(2)

☒ (b)(3) Rule 6(e) Federal Rules of
Criminal Procedure

☐ (b)(7)(C)

☐ (k)(1)

☒ (b)(7)(D)

☐ (k)(2)

☐ (b)(7)(E)

☐ (k)(3)

☐ (b)(7)(F)

☐ (k)(4)

☐ (b)(4)

☐ (b)(8)

☐ (k)(5)

☐ (b)(5)

☐ (b)(9)

☐ (k)(6)

☐ (b)(6)

☐ (k)(7)

224 **page(s)** were reviewed and 214 **page(s)** are being released.

☒ Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning other Government agency(ies) [OGA]. This information has been:

☒ referred to the OGA for review and direct response to you.

☐ referred to the OGA for consultation. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is finished.

☐ In accordance with standard FBI practice, this response neither confirms nor denies the existence of your subject's name on any watch lists.

☒ You have the right to appeal any denials in this release. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy, U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001. Your appeal must be received by OIP within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

☐ The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown, when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s). If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

☒ See additional information which follows.

Sincerely yours,



David M. Hardy
Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

In response to your Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request, enclosed is a CD containing responsive documents processed from FBI Headquarters file 71-HQ-1579 and 71-HQ-768.

The enclosed CD is being provided at no charge.

The enclosed contain documents reproduced from microfilm. Due to the age and condition of our microfilm, we have found that copies reproduced therefrom have been extremely difficult to read. While we realize the quality of some of the documents is poor, every effort has been made to obtain the best copies possible.

Due to technical limitations, the FBI is unable to copy documents responsive to your request onto CD. The responsive documents were printed and are being provided to you at no cost.

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could be reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could be reasonably expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Serial Description - Unrecorded Serial

Total Deleted Page(s) ~ 6
Page 122 ~ Referral/Direct
Page 123 ~ Referral/Direct
Page 124 ~ Referral/Direct
Page 125 ~ Referral/Direct
Page 126 ~ Referral/Direct
Page 144 ~ Referral/Direct

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Serial Description ~ Unrecorded Serial

Total Deleted Page(s) ~ 5
Page 117 ~ Referral/Direct
Page 119 ~ Referral/Direct
Page 120 ~ Referral/Direct
Page 140 ~ Referral/Direct
Page 188 ~ Referral/Direct

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

NY FILE NO. **71-410**

62

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, N. Y.	DATE WHEN MADE 5/15/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7/6, 8/19/43; 4/10, 5/3/44	REPORT MADE BY EDWARD M. LANE
TITLE MICHAEL ESTROW; JOHN CUNEO; LYMAN L. HARRIS			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS <p>Attempts to locate OPPENBERG and SCHWARTZ negative. JOHN GOLDWATER distributes publications outside U. S., including ESTROW'S publications. Interview with GOLDWATER reflects no conversations between him and ESTROW regarding contents of ESTROW'S publications.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- RUC -</p>			
REFERENCE: <p>Report of Special Agent Edward M. Lane dated May 26, 1943 at New York, New York.</p>			
DETAILS: <p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p>Inquiries in the vicinity of 218 West 10th Street, New York City reflect that JACK OPPENBERG at one time operated a stationery store at the 218 West 10th Street address. It should be noted that in the reference report of the writer, JACK OPPENBERG was listed as having had a business at 1924 Davidson Avenue and that one DONALD SCHWARTZ occupied the store at 218 West 10th Street, New York City. As will be noted hereinafter, this is erroneous and the address for SCHWARTZ should have been 1924 Davidson Avenue and the address of OPPENBERG at 218 West 10th Street.</p> <p>MAX ABRAMS, proprietor of a dry goods store now located at 218 West 10th Street, advised that he has been in this location for the past eight years and prior to that time he stated that he believed the premises were occupied by a cigar and candy store, but he did not know the name of the owner.</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <div style="text-align: center;"> E. M. Lane </div>		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;"> 71-41572-56 19 MAY 18 1944 </div>	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau 2 - Detroit 2 - New York		RECORDED INDEXED 5 <div style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.2em;"> 25 </div>	

NY 71-410

JOHN SPANO, proprietor of a candy and stationery store at 339 Bleecker Street, New York City, which is directly across the street from 218 West 10th Street, advised that he has been in the neighborhood for the past 15 years. He stated that some years ago there was a candy and stationery store at 218 West 10th Street and that the owner thereof was one JACK OPPENBERG. According to SPANO, some ten or twelve years ago OPPENBERG became ill and moved out of the neighborhood and has not been heard of since.

ANTHONY BERSON, a druggist at 350 Bleecker Street, stated that he has been in the neighborhood for the past seven years and during all that time only the dry goods store owned by MAX ABRAMS has been located at the 218 West 10th Street address.

An attempt was made to locate DONALD SCHWARTZ or JACK OPPENBERG, 1924 Davidson Avenue, New York City. However, in that vicinity it was ascertained that the addresses jump from 1918 Davidson Avenue to 1934 Davidson Avenue and this neighborhood is strictly residential, consisting of apartment houses. Inquiries in the apartment houses in the area were made with negative results.

At 1934 Davidson Avenue the superintendent was interviewed and stated that he has been employed there as superintendent for the past five years and had never had a family named SCHWARTZ living there during this five year period. He also stated that he had never known anyone by the name of OPPENBERG.

JOHN GOLDWATER, 241 Church Street, was interviewed and it was ascertained that he was Vice President of the COLUMBIA PUBLICATIONS, INCORPORATED at that address. Upon being interviewed GOLDWATER stated that besides being connected with the COLUMBIA PUBLICATIONS he has a side business of his own at 40 Hudson Street, New York City. In his private business, he stated that he is an exporter of so-called "Returns" of almost every pulp magazine editor in New York, including the ESTROW PUBLICATIONS. By "Returns" he stated he meant those magazines which had been returned to the publishers by distributors throughout the country when they had not been sold. He stated that when these returns are sent to the publisher the publisher in turn sends them to him, GOLDWATER, and he distributes them outside the confines of the United States. According to his contracts with the various publishers, any of the pulp magazines which he cannot get rid of he destroys in view of the fact that the publishers don't want the old magazines on the market to compete with their current numbers.

NY 71-410

GOLDWATER stated that most of his business now is with the United States Army and that he sends most of the pulp magazines to Army Camps. He stated that at the present time the distribution of pulp magazines outside the country is practically at a standstill, in view of the fact that the present world conflict has made it almost impossible for him to ship the magazines out of the country.

GOLDWATER stated that one of his publishers for whom he exported seconds was ESTROW, and particularly the Speed Series published by ESTROW'S Corporation. He stated that he has done very little distribution for ESTROW in the past two years because of the war conditions. He stated that he had made his original contract to distribute seconds with MICHAEL ESTROW but could recall nothing in the conversations with ESTROW that would show that ESTROW was aware of the contents of the various ESTROW publications. He stated that the only conversation he had with ESTROW regarding the distribution of seconds was regarding price, destruction of the magazines not sold and purely along business lines. He stated that he knows ESTROW many years.

In reference report of the writer a lead was set forth that the New York Office should check the Special Sessions Court for information concerning the alleged conviction of one DONATFIELD on May 18, 1930 for publishing obscene matter. Another lead was set out to search the records of the Magistrate's Court, New York City for information concerning the hearing of FRANK ARMER on May 5, 1936 when he was charged with the editing of an obscene magazine.

The Clerk of the Court of the Special Sessions, 100 Centre Street, New York City, advised that in both the Special Sessions Court and the Magistrate's Court, stenographic records are kept. However, he stated that not all of the records are transcribed from shorthand to typed reports and that many of them, if available, would be found still to be in shorthand and to have them typed it would cost \$1.50 per folio and that they are only typed if a defendant in a case asks for a copy of the record. He stated that records go back as far as 1924 and 1930 may be destroyed by this time, but that it is also possible that such records may be kept in the City Warehouse. The Clerk stated that a search for these records would involve a great deal of difficulty.

In view of the above, no attempt was made to secure the records concerning DONATFIELD and ARMER. However, if it is deemed advisable by the office of origin, this office will make an attempt to secure such records.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

FILE NO. **71-155**

REPORT MADE AT CINCINNATI, OHIO	DATE WHEN MADE 8-17-43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7-21, 22-43	REPORT MADE BY MAURICE W. CORCORAN GCM
TITLE MICHAEL ESTROW; JOHN CONGO; LYMAN L. HARRIS			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

J. E. WASSERMAN, Dayton, Ohio, admits ownership of 12 1/2% of the stock of Trojan Publishing Company and 25% of Leader News Company purchased from brother-in-law, PAUL SAMPLINER, New York City, in 1940 as an investment. Denied activity in firm's business and states attendance at stockholders' meetings by proxy only. Denies knowledge of parties who edit publications. Bank investigation negative. Credit negative.

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent FRANCIS P. PARKER, Detroit, Michigan, dated 7-3-43.

DETAILS:

AT DAYTON, OHIO

Mr. J. E. WASSERMAN, better known locally as J. ED. WASSERMAN, attorney, 804 Harries Building, was interviewed by the writer in company with Special Agent BRENDAN P. WALSH, at which time the following information was obtained:

Mr. WASSERMAN stated that he first became interested in the Trojan Publishing Company and the Leader News Company in 1940 when he bought as an investment 12 1/2% of the stock of Trojan and 25% of the stock of Leader from his brother-in-law, PAUL SAMPLINER of New York City. He

APPROVED AND
FORWARDED:

A. F. Belmont

SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

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- 2 Louisville (Info.)
- 2 New York (Info.)
- 1 Cincinnati

71-15579 - 35

25 AUG 19 1943

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INDEXED

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EX-100

52 AUG 28 1943

72-155

said that through his family relationship with SAMPLINER he knew that these companies were making money and, therefore, purely as an investment venture made the above purchase. SAMPLINER at that time was General Manager of the Independent News Company, 630 Lexington Avenue, New York City, but was inducted into the United States Army during the last winter and is thought to be presently stationed in Palo Springs, California, exact address unknown.

According to WASSERMAN, RARRY DOWNFIELD was the other active member of Independent and he believes that since SAMPLINER'S induction into the service the former is carrying on the work with the aid of one JACK LIEBOWITZ, Treasurer.

He denied any knowledge as to the other members associated with Independent as well as any knowledge of the printers or editors of its publications. To the best of his knowledge the Superman series is Independent's primary publication at present, which is either written or drawn by SKIOL and SHUSTER, the comic strip artists.

He further denied any knowledge of a connection between Independent and the Fighting Press, Louisville, Kentucky, advising that he had never heard of the latter.

Relative to the Trojan Publishing Company and the Leader News Company, WASSERMAN said that the latter is merely a distributor of the former's publications. He further stated that the two companies are managed by the same parties and that the stock on both companies is owned by the same people. He stated that MICHAEL ESTROW and FRANK ANGEL are the principal managers of both companies, but denied any knowledge as to what positions were held. His belief is that they hold the controlling stock although he denied acquaintance with JIMMY DAVIDSON ANGEL and CURTIS DOWNFIELD, who with MICHAEL ESTROW and WASSERMAN are set forth in the reference report to be the joint stockholders of Trojan and Leader.

In explanation of his apparent limited knowledge of the activities of the publisher and distributor when questioned, WASSERMAN advised that he does not attend the stockholders' meetings except by proxy, who is by him appointed to be MICHAEL ESTROW. He stated that ESTROW handles the business and policies of the company as far as his interest is concerned under proxy, and that he (WASSERMAN) takes no active part whatsoever. According to WASSERMAN, he has been in the New York office of these companies on only one occasion a couple of years ago and that visit pertained purely to his financial interest.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT, MICH.**

FILE NO. **71-38**

REPORT MADE AT Louisville, Kentucky	DATE WHEN MADE 7/21/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7/7, 12/43	REPORT MADE BY PETER F. WALSON
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TITLE MICHAEL ESTROW; JOHN CUNEO; EDMAN L. BARKER	CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OUT-STATE LITERATURE
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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Files of United States Attorney for Western District of Kentucky checked and information obtained that **INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY** was a defendant in a case held at Bowling Green, Ky. May 17, 1938. **PAUL SAMPLINER** was one of the defendants. Indictment returned against **INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY** and **SAMPLINER** but were not processed. Records at **C. D. DEARING PRINTING COMPANY** reflect **HARRY CONNEFELD** contracted with that company for printing the "Snappy" magazine for the **D. M. PUBLISHING COMPANY**, New York City.

- RUC -

Reference: Bureau file 71-1579.
Report of Special Agent **FRANCIS P. PARKER** dated 7/3/43 at Detroit.

Details: **J. D. IRMAN**, Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky was contacted regarding any knowledge that he had of the **INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY** being indicted at Bowling Green, Kentucky. He produced his file on this case and advised that the prosecutive action had been brought and that a special assistant to the Attorney General had been the prosecuting attorney. The case was entitled "**U. S. versus C. D. DEARING PRINTING COMPANY, INC.; D. M. PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.; WILLIAM J. DAVIS; HUBERT M. SIEGEL; INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY, INC.; PAUL H. SAMPLINER; JACOB S. LIEBOWITZ; CENTRAL FORWARDERS, INC.; LESTER MARSHAL and HAROLD MARSHAL.**" It was presented to the Grand Jury held at Bowling Green on May 17, 1938 and on that date the jury

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71-38

returned a true bill charging the violation of Title 18, Sections 88 and 396 on two counts; one that on or about February 22, 1938 the defendants caused to be deposited with the RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY for transportation from Louisville, Kentucky to Clarkburg, West Virginia a certain obscene lewd and lascivious book entitled "Snappy" dated April, 1938 and designated volume 17, number 4; and two that on or about December 1, 1935 and at all times thereafter up to the presentation of the indictment the defendants continued to violate the provisions of Section 36, Title 18 United States Code by depositing with the RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY to transport from Louisville, Kentucky to numerous other states many copies of a certain obscene lewd book, "Snappy".

On December 6, 1938 by order of the judge for the Western District of Kentucky the indictment returned against the C. D. DEARING PRINTING COMPANY, INC., PAUL H. SAMPLINER, JACOB S. IIEBOWITZ, CENTRAL FORWARDERS, INC., LESTER MARSHAL and HAROLD MARSHAL was nol-prossed, and the defendants were discharged from further custody. The D. M. FUBLISHING COMPANY was ordered to pay a fine of \$250 on count two. HUBERT M. STEDEL received a suspended sentence and placed on probation until March 13, 1939 on count two of the indictment, count one against him was nol-prossed. No further information concerning this case could be obtained from the United States Attorney due to the fact as stated before that this case was brought by the department and handled by one of their attorneys.

Mr. JOHN GUIGLIANO, assistant manager of the C. D. DEARING PUBLISHING COMPANY, Louisville was contacted concerning his knowledge of the case held at Bowling Green. He could refer no additional information but checked his records for the names of HARRY DOWNFELD and PAUL SAMPLINER. No record was found on SAMPLINER but various job tickets showed that HARRY DOWNFELD, 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City had contracted with the DEARING COMPANY for the printing of the "Snappy" magazine from April 1933 to August 1938. No record was found on the INTERMEDIATE NEWS COMPANY.

GUIGLIANO advised that his company had stopped printing the "Snappy" magazine immediately after the court action at Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Since no further investigation exists in this field division this case is being referred upon completion to the office of origin.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION
TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DETROIT FILE NO. 71-157

Page No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

REPORT MADE AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN	DATE WHEN MADE 7/3/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/12, 13, 20, 25, 29/6/43, 19, 26; 7/2/43	REPORT MADE BY FRANCIS P. PARKER LMR
TITLE MICHAEL ESTROM; JOHN GUNZO; LYMAN L. HARRIS			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

USA Detroit still withholding opinion as to prosecution. Requested Monsignor HICKEY be contacted for his opinion as to prosecution. Monsignor HICKEY, Vice Chancellor Archdiocese of Detroit, states emphatically it is his opinion these individuals should be prosecuted. Information set out for benefit of Cincinnati and Louisville offices as USA desires to possibly implicate J. E. WASSERMAN, stockholder in Trojan Publishing Company and Leader Publishing Company, and secure further information as to reported indictment of Independent News Company at Bowling Green, Kentucky.

- P -

REFERENCE:

(71-1579) Report of Special Agent FRANCIS P. PARKER dated April 14, 1943, at Detroit, Michigan.

DETAILS:

At Detroit, Michigan:

Inasmuch as it is hinted that HORACE S. MANOES, attorney for the subjects in instant case, may have indicated to departmental authorities that this "spicy" series had been given a clean bill of health, United States Attorney JOHN C. LARR requested the writer to contact Monsignor HICKEY, Vice Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Detroit, to clarify this situation.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>John C. Larr</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 71-1579-27	RECORDED INDEXED D84
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 6 - Mr. Larr, M. Records 2 - Cincinnati 2 - Louisville 2 - New York 1 - USA Detroit 1 - Detroit		5 JUL 5 1943 <i>[Signature]</i>	EX-35

66 JUL 13 1943

(Detroit File 71-187)

Upon contact Monsignor HICKEY advised that he was of the opinion, as a matter of record, that prior to the time the "Spicy" stories were discontinued, the publications under that head were of the worst and vilest sort and for a period of approximately fifteen years, in spite of all the pressure brought to bear by the National Order for Decent Literature and Monsignor HICKEY as its advisor, the publications and their dissemination of "Spicy" stories continued. He indicated that they were discontinued only as a result of the very positive action taken by the FBI within the last couple of years and he did not feel that after flagrantly violating all codes of common decency the Trojan Publishing Company and MICHAEL ESTROW should at this time receive any leniency. He stated they discontinued these publications only after a great deal of pressure had been brought and there was no other alternative. He stated that this is his own official attitude on the matter and also the attitude of the Detroit Legion for Decent Literature of which he is head and which is the local branch of the National Order for Decent Literature.

Monsignor HICKEY stated that he emphatically desired that the publishers of the "Spicy" series be prosecuted.

It is noted from the reference report of Special Agent PARKER that J. EDWARD WASSERMAN is a stockholder in the Leader News Company and the Trojan Publishing Company. In this connection Assistant United States Attorney JOSEPH C. MURPHY desired that WASSERMAN be interviewed so that he possibly might be included in an indictment, if one is returned. It will also be noted that to date no final decision has been reached by the United States Attorney as to final prosecutive action.

The report of Special Agent EDWARD M. LANE dated May 26, 1943, at New York City, states on page 12 as follows:

"ROBERT MAXWELL, whom it will be noted evidently occupies space in Room 933 with DOWNFELD, was described by Informant T-1 as a prolific writer, who writes under numerous pen names. According to Informant T-1, MAXWELL is also a fictitious name and MAXWELL has written and published for years in the 'snip' magazines. According to Informant T-1, he believed that the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY had gotten into some difficulties about five or six years ago in Bowling Green, Kentucky, inasmuch as the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY had been indicted by Federal Authorities. He thought that at the time SAMPLER and DOWNFELD had been arrested and that it was at quite a cost of money that they had been able to get out of the difficulties. He did not know the name of the magazines involved, but stated that it was printed by the DURING PRESS, Louisville, Kentucky. He advised that neither DOWNFELD or SAMPLER had gone to jail on this indictment, but that they had promised to stop distributing the magazines."

CORRECTION

**THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN
REPHOTOGRAPHED TO ASSURE
LEGIBILITY**

(Detroit File 71-187)

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It is noted from the reference report of Special Agent PARKER that J. EDWARD WASSERMAN is a stockholder in the Leader News Company and the Trojan Publishing Company. In this connection Assistant United States Attorney JOSEPH C. MURPHY desired that WASSERMAN be interviewed so that he possibly might be included in an indictment, if one is returned. It will also be noted that to date no final decision has been reached by the United States Attorney as to final prosecutive action.

The report of Special Agent EDWARD W. LANE dated May 26, 1943, at New York City, states on page 12 as follows:

"ROBERT MAXWELL, whom it will be noted evidently occupies space in Room 933 with DOWNFELD, was described by Informant T-1 as a prolific writer, who writes under numerous pen names. According to Informant T-1, MAXWELL is also a fictitious name and MAXWELL has written and published for years in the 'snip' magazines. According to Informant T-1, he believed that the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY had gotten into some difficulties about five or six years ago in Bowling Green, Kentucky, inasmuch as the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY had been indicted by Federal Authorities. He thought that at this time SAMPLINER and DOWNFELD had been arrested and that it was at quite a cost of money that they had been able to get out of the difficulties. He did not know the name of the magazines involved, but stated that it was printed by the CEMRING PRESS, Louisville, Kentucky. He advised that neither DOWNFELD or SAMPLINER had gone to jail on this indictment but that they had promised to stop distributing the magazine."

(Detroit File 71-187)

For the information of the Cincinnati and Louisville Field Divisions, this case has as its background a series of magazines known as the "Spicy" series, which include "Spicy Mystery", "Spicy Adventure", "Spicy Western" and "Spicy Detective." These magazines have been banned by the Detroit Police Censors and are being shipped into Detroit and other cities by railway express. They are considered by Detroit Police Censors to be obscene and investigation has revealed they are published by the Trojan Publishing Company and distributed by the Leader News Company, both companies having the same stockholders, namely MICHAEL ESTROW, JAMES DAFINNA, GUSSE WOODENFELD and J. EDWARD NASSERMAN. NASSERMAN, whose address is given as the Harries Building, Dayton, Ohio, is apparently a stockholder who has no active part in the publication of these magazines.

Great difficulty has been experienced in determining just who actually edits these magazines and which persons are aware of the material which goes into them prior to their publication. Further investigations reflected that the publishers deny they have knowledge that the magazine ever experienced any difficulty with the Detroit Police Department.

The decision has been rendered in a memorandum of Assistant Attorney General MICHAEL BURKE that, in his opinion, these magazines are obscene, and at the present time the United States Attorney at Detroit is withholding his opinion as to prosecution.

With reference to the leads for the Detroit Field Division set forth in the report of Special Agent FRANCIS P. PARKER dated April 14, 1943, at Detroit, Michigan, to interview JOHN RICCA and WILLIAM DOWLING, Wayne County Prosecutors, it has been determined that JOHN RICCA is presently out of the United States on confidential assignment for the United States Army and WILLIAM DOWLING has no knowledge of instant case, all decisions having been handled by RICCA.

The office of the Wayne County Prosecutor was unable to produce a file in connection with this matter.

- P E N D I N G -

(Detroit File 71-187)

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE CINCINNATI FIELD DIVISION

AT DAYTON, OHIO, will thoroughly interview J. E. WASSERMAN, the Harries Building, and determine from him his connection with the Trojan Publishing Company and Leader News Company of New York City. Will secure all information available from him with relation to MICHAEL ESTROW and FRANK ARMER, of these two corporations, and ascertain whether or not he is aware of just who actually edits the publications distributed by these concerns, with particular reference to the "Spicy" series. Will ascertain just how he first became interested in these two companies.

THE LOUISVILLE FIELD DIVISION

AT BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY, Will determine whether or not the Independent News Company has ever been indicted in Federal Court at Bowling Green, either by the Federal Bureau of Investigation or United States Postal authorities. Will also check the docket against the names of PAUL SAMPLINER and HARRY DOWNFELD or DOWNFIELD. Will secure all pertinent information concerning such indictment.

AT LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, will determine from the Dairing Press their connection with the Independent News Company, New York City, HARRY DOWNFELD and PAUL SAMPLINER and determine from them the name of the magazine over which the rumored indictment at Bowling Green, Kentucky, was returned.

THE NEW YORK CITY FIELD DIVISION

* AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK, will check the records of the Special Sessions Court for information concerning the alleged conviction of DOWNFELD on May 16, 1930, for publishing obscene material.

* Will search the records of the Magistrates Court, for information concerning the hearing of FRANK ARMER on May 5, 1926, when he was charged with the editing of an obscene magazine.

* Will attempt to locate JACK OPPENBERG, 1924 Davidson Avenue, and DONALD SCHWARTZ, 218 West 10th Street, to ascertain whether or not they had had any conversations with the publishers of the "Spicy" series concerning their convictions in September 22, 1934, and December 21, 1934, respectively in the Court of Special Sessions, New York City.

(Detroit File 71-127)

* Will interview JOHN GOLDWATER, 40 Hudson Street, for any information he may have pertinent to this case.

THE DETROIT FIELD DIVISION

* AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN, will interview IVAN LUDINGTON of the Ludington News Company for specific information as to knowledge on his part of ESPROW's having actually been advised that in the opinion of the Detroit Police Department the "Spicy" series were considered obscene.

* Will follow information secured from MARSHALL, LAFFE and MATTHEWS following their appearance before the Grand Jury at Detroit, Michigan.

* Will secure the opinion of Assistant United States Attorney JOSEPH C. MURPHY as to prosecution and will further secure his opinion as to the prosecution of the publishers of the "The Turner, Hollywood Detective" magazine.

- P E N D I N G -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

BY FILE NO. 71-410 RD

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, N.Y.	DATE WHEN MADE 5/26/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4/17/43, 6.10, 13, 15, 19/43	REPORT MADE BY EDWARD W. LANE
TITLE MICHAEL ESTROW, et al			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

New York file 71-329 further reviewed. JOHN SUMNER advised DOBROWOLSKY arrested 6/16/30 and 4/1/34 for publishing obscene magazines. Found guilty with exceptions. FRANK ARMER tried May, 1934 for editing obscene magazines. Dismissed. TROJAN CORPORATION incorporated NYC 12/22/33 with DOBROWOLSKY, ARMER and GREENWALD listed as original incorporators. ESTROW unknown to SUMNER. New York Police Department criminal record for DOBROWOLSKY set out. No record on ESTROW. Informants give background of ESTROW, DOBROWOLSKY and ARMER in magazine field.

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent Francis P. Parker dated April 14, 1943 at Detroit, Michigan.

DETAILS: AT NEW YORK CITY

Reference report of Special Agent Parker requested that a further review of New York file 71-329 be made to furnish any other information contained in said file other than which has been reported by Special Agent John G. Carr in his report dated October 23, 1942 at New York, New York.

In New York file 71-329 there is contained a letter from the firm of attorneys Bredak and Stimer, 79 Wall Street, New York City, which letter is dated June 6, 1935 and which also enclosed extracts from various

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>E. E. Carr</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 71-1579-23	RECORDED
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 2 - Bureau 3 - Detroit (Encl. 1) (1 WSA) 2 - New York		RECORDED 15 MAY 28 1943	INDEXED <i>5-13</i>

56 JUN 7 1943

NY 72-610

writers journals as to the CULTURE PUBLICATIONS series of Spy magazine.
The following extracts are being set out:

May 1934

WRITER'S DIGEST
Dear Editor:

Spy Detective Stories uses thrilling, fast action, detective stories with a very strong element of sex in them. The sex angle was) is an element of the story and strongly tied up with the plot, not just dragged in for the effect.

We use any length up to 7,000 words, preferring stories between three and five thousand.

We pay from half a cent to a cent, on acceptance, the rate being based on the merit of the individual story.

Cordially yours,
LAWRENCE WILSON, Editor
Spy Detective Stories
490 Lexington Ave., New York City.

(This firm is - or was - connected with Frank Arner. - H.)

June 1934

WRITER'S DIGEST

There is some misapprehension about the address of Frank Arner's magazines, Super Detective Stories and Spy Detective Stories. The two addresses given on different pages of last month's WRITER'S DIGEST -

490 Lexington Avenue (Spy Detective)
and
115 East 40th Street (Super Detective)

are different entrances of the same building. Either one is okay."

September 1934

WRITER'S DIGEST

NY 71-410

"Frank Armer's plans for a new Western adventure book have been postponed somewhat. He edits Super Detective Stories and Spicy Detective Stories at 128 E. 46th Street.

WRITER'S AND SCIENCE REVIEW

Writers desiring to submit to Spicy Magazine of the Trojan Publications at 128 East 46th Street, NYC, should write to the editor for his latest form letter covering details of certain new restrictions and limitations. The magazine is being toned down a little and the latest confidential bulletin issued by Trojan gives the complete picture."

October, 1934

WRITER'S DIGEST

(Super Detective is the only magazine edited by Frank Armer now, and the address remains 128 East 46th Street.)

Lawrence Cadogan is the new editor of the "Spicy" list -- Spicy Adventure Stories, Spicy Detective Stories, and Spicy Stories. These are all now giving a new address at 900 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware. This same new Delaware address is given now for the Marvill group of sex story magazines--which has changed its title to the D. M. Publishing Company."

December, 1934

WRITER'S AND SCIENCE REVIEW

Spicy Detective Magazine got an unexpected write-up in a recent NEW YORKER MAGAZINE."

It should be noted that in the extract dated May, 1934, December, 1934 the name LAWRENCE CADOGAN appears. As will be set out hereinafter, there is a notation to the effect that LAWRENCE CADOGAN is a pen name of FRANK ARMER.

In New York file 71-379 there is also a letter dated July 25, 1936 on the stationery of the TROJAN PUBLISHING CORPORATION which is being set out as follows:

July 26th, 1936.

Mrs. Ed Bodin,
151 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

NY 71-410

"Dear Mr. Redial:

I find that there is a shortage of mystery stories in the house for Spicy Mystery Stories.

Suggest you keep this in mind when submitting stories in the near future.

Cordially yours,

TRAJAN PUBLISHING CORPORATION

Frank Arner.

PA:SF."

There is also in the exhibit file of New York file 71-239 a letter written on the stationery of the INDEPENDENT NEWS CO., INC., 450 Lexington Avenue, New York City, dated October 28, 1935. This letter is signed by one HARRY HANCOCK, and is being set out as follows:

October 28, 1935

Attention Return Department
Street & Smith Publications
79 Seventh Avenue
New York City

Gentlemen:

We find that magazine covers are returned to us occasionally, for credit, which we do not distribute. Some of these may be yours, we will forward you a card listing them, if you will kindly send us an up-to-date list of your magazines.

The following magazines are distributed by us:

Pop	Spicy Adventures
Spicy	Spicy Mystery
La Farc	The Redist
Gay Parisienne	Headline Stories
Smooty	Tattle Tales
Spicy Detective	Gay Broadway
Real Screen Fun	

NY 72-410

"Should you receive any of the above in error, will you please send us a card stating the name and issue of the magazine, and the dealer from whom it came.

Yours truly,

INDEPENDENT NEWS CO., INC.

(Sgd) Harry Downfield
Traffic Dept."

It should be noted that the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY is owned by HARRY DOWNFIELD.

It should be noted that as to the above stated letter addressed to Mr. BODIN that BODIN was the field representative in New York City, as well as office agent for the Author and Journalist magazine in Denver, Colorado.

In the course of the investigation of New York file 71-277 an interview was had with [redacted] who had formerly been an employee of DOWNFIELD in his magazine business. A copy of the report of J. E. LAWLER setting out the information obtained from [redacted] is being enclosed with this report for the information of the Detroit office.

In the report of Special Agent J. E. Lawler dated November 22, 1935 at Buffalo, New York in the case entitled, "CULPERS PUBLICATIONS, INC. TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY" that reporting agent set out an interview with one GEORGE RICHTER, President of the RICHTER PERIODICAL COMPANY, 507 Michigan Avenue, Buffalo, New York, during which interview RICHTER stated he had been the local distributor for the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY and that he had limited distribution of magazines distributed to the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY to persons who would sell them discreetly and RICHTER had requested his customers not to display these magazines. RICHTER stated that on one occasion, HARRY DOWNFIELD had been in Buffalo and that he had later, after returning to New York City, received from the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY the following letter written on the stationery of the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY, INC., 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City, which was dated August 23, 1935. The letter reads as follows:

Independent News Co., Inc.
480 Lexington Avenue
New York City

August 23, 1935

NY 71-40

"Nichter Periodical Co.
607 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, N.Y.

Gentlemen:-

There has been considerable dissatisfaction with the sales in Buffalo on all of our magazines -- more particularly, however, with reference to the FIP, SPICE, LA FARM, GAY PARADISE, CHERRY and MIDWINTER STORIES and TATTLE TALE group.

When the publisher of these magazines, Mr. Donsenfeld, was in Buffalo, he met a representative of the Empire City News Company. I believe that is the name of your competitor and they showed him figures as what they were doing on the Federal News line. Assuming them to be correct, they are doing a great deal better work than you are on ours. Their sales were equal and in some cases superior to your sales... It seems unbelievable in view of the inferior quality of their magazines and the matter has been put squarely up to me to defend your efforts in the territory.

I would like to hear from you as to just what you think the possibilities are for increased sales on all of our magazines-- and more particularly those mentioned above. You know that our interests have always been mutual and that I will continue to do my best to keep you as our representative indefinitely, but I must have some assistance from you.

Cordially yours,

JOHN J. HENRY NEWS CO., INC.
Paul Sampliner
JOHN E. SAMPLINER, PRES.

The original of this letter was retained in the Buffalo Field Division files.

In the report of Special Agent W. E. Feard, dated January 13, 1935 at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in the case entitled, "CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. TROVAN PUBLISHING COMPANY", Special Agent Feard had interviewed, at Wilmington, Delaware, Mr. D. E. WILLIAMS, President of the CORPORATION FISCAL COMPANY, 900 Market Street, who advised that his Company had been requested by Mr. FRANK ARNER of 135 East 40th Street, New York City, to start incorporation proceedings for the CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. on January 10, 1935. According to Mr. WILLIAMS, the CORPORATION FISCAL COMPANY acts in the capacity of resident agent for the CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. as required by the Delaware State laws. He stated that E. V. KENNEDY, Jr., E. F. CHANTON and

NY 75-410

L. G. MOON, who were at that time connected with the CORPORATION FISCAL COMPANY as stenographers, had been used as "dummy incorporators" of the CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. According to WILLIAMS, large quantities of material came to his office addressed to the CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, which material he forwarded to 122 East 45th Street, New York City. He stated that FRANK ARNER was the President and Treasurer of the CULTURE PUBLICATIONS and that one LEONER LEVY was Vice President and Secretary.

The report of Special Agent G. F. Lammie dated February 6, 1936 at New York, New York in the case entitled "CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC., TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY", agent Lammie stated "In connection with an investigation being conducted by agent in New York file 71-340 entitled, 'UNKNOWN SUBJECTS, NEW DEAL PUBLISHING COMPANY, et al' agent interviewed a Mr. LUTON MARSHMAN, 280 Riverside Drive, New York City, and during the course of the conversation, Mr. MARSHMAN, who is an author and an author's agent, mentioned the TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY and FRANK ARNER, and stated that FRANK ARNER used the pen name of LAWRENCE GARDNER. It should be noted here that in the enclosed report, setting out the interview of [redacted] who too states that GARDNER and ARNER are identical.

In the report of Special Agent G. F. Lammie, dated March 17, 1936 at New York, New York, entitled, "CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC., TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY", Special Agent Lammie interviewed Mr. JOHN BEAN, Attorney for the CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. and the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY, INC. as well as for HARRY BOWNEFIELD. BEAN, whose office was at 25 Broadway, New York City at that time, advised Agent Lammie that the CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC., publishes Spicy Detective, Spicy Mystery and Spicy Adventures, and that they were printed by the BURNS PRESS, Chicago, Illinois and are distributed by the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY, New York City. BEAN stated that he was the attorney for HARRY BOWNEFIELD, when he said was no longer connected in any way with the sex magazines due to some difficulties which he had encountered with the New York City authorities several years ago, and that the only publishing engaged in by BOWNEFIELD at the time of the interview, was a movie magazine, entitled, "Real Screen Fun" and also several children's books. He stated that the various magazines in which he believed BOWNEFIELD was formerly interested, but was no longer involved with, were the following:

D. A. N. PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.

owned at the time of the interview by HERBERT K. BIRCH, which Company published "Spicy Magazine", "Pop", "Gay Parisienne", "La Femme" and "Smugg". According to BEAN, the first four of these magazines were printed by the

NY 71-410

DONNY PRESS, 655 Eleventh Avenue, New York City and were distributed throughout the United States by the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY, New York City. The last one "Sappy" magazine was printed by the C. F. HENNING PRINTING COMPANY of Louisville, Kentucky and was also distributed by the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY.

BEANE further stated that DORNFELD had also been interested at one time in the CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. which printed the above mentioned "epicy group" of magazines.

From a review of the New York file 71-329, entitled, "CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC., TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY" and the report of Special Agent John C Carr, dated November 3, 1942, it is felt that the information from file 71-329 is now completely in the possession of the office of origin.

Special Employee, WAIN FULKE, searched the records of the New York City Police Department under the names of MICHAEL ESTROY and HARRY DORNFELD. As to ESTROY the check was negative, but as to DORNFELD, the following arrest is being set out:

Nov. 1933

as Harry Dornfeld, Manh. Viol. Sec. 1161 P.S.
On 1-16-34 60 days City Prison, \$250. fine,
Execution Stayed, Judge Koenig, Gen. Sess. Ct.

RES: 110 Riverside Drive, Manh.
AGE: 41 (1933)
BORN: Russian
OCC: Publisher.

Mr. JOHN SUMNER, Director of the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice, 215 West 22nd Street, was interviewed and advised that his records reflected the following information concerning HARRY DORNFELD:

He stated that on February 1, 1934, while DORNFELD was putting out the "epicy series", he, JOHN SUMNER, had gone to talk with DORNFELD and DORNFELD had supplied him with four copies of various magazines which he published. SUMNER stated that on the basis of these magazines supplied by DORNFELD himself, proceedings were brought by SUMNER against DORNFELD as publisher of "epicy", "Sappy", "La Parca", "Gay Parisienne" magazine on February 1, 1934. On February 1, 1934 a complaint was filed by SUMNER against DORNFELD and as a result thereof DORNFELD pleaded guilty before the General Sessions Court on a charge of publishing obscene material. He pleaded guilty on January 15, 1934 before Judge KENNIC and he received a \$250. fine and a sixty day suspended sentence. At the time of the sentencing, Judge KENNIC told DORNFELD that if he did not give up such magazines, and if he ever appeared before him

NY 71-410

apologize for the same offense, he would give him the greatest sentence he could under the law. SUMNER stated that as far as he knows from that time on DORSEYFIELD has been legitimate in his publications and, at the present time, is publishing such cartoon books as "Superman". SUMNER further advised that at other times he has gotten convictions against two news stand sellers for selling "Spy" series magazines and had been successful in getting convictions against these persons.

At this time, he stated, he knew nothing regarding DORSEYFIELD in connection with the publication of the "Spy Series" although, in his own mind, he stated that he feels sure DORSEYFIELD still publishes them. He stated that, at the present time, the "Spy Series" are called "The Speed Series" and have been so called since about January of 1943.

SUMNER stated his records also reflected that on March 11, 1930 a complaint had been filed by his office against HARRY DORSEYFIELD at owner of the IRWIN PUBLISHING COMPANY, which Company sold a magazine "Hot Stories". He stated that his records reflected that HARRY DORSEYFIELD was found guilty on March 18, 1930 and received a \$50. fine and ten days imprisonment by a Court of Special Sessions in New York City. It should be noted that this conviction is not reflected in the criminal file of the New York City Police Department.

SUMNER stated he did not know MICHAEL ESTROV and had never heard of him.

As to FRANK L. ALDER, SUMNER's records reflected that ALDER, in May of 1930, was the editor and publisher of a weekly magazine entitled, "Art and Beauty" and that this magazine was published by the RABBIT KUTLER, INC. According to SUMNER, ALDER is merely a juxtaposition of ALDER's name. His records show that on May 8, 1930 a complaint was filed against ALDER in the Magistrate's Court in New York City and a hearing was had on the same date before Magistrate Brodsky, who dismissed the charges with the opinion that he did not believe the magazine was obscene.

It should be noted in reference report of Special Agent Parker that MICHAEL ESTROV, on April 8, 1943, had advised Agent Parker in a conversation that JOHN SUMNER had given the "Spy Series" a clean bill of health. SUMNER emphatically denied that he had ever given the "Spy Series" a clean bill of health and as noted above said he had never heard of MICHAEL ESTROV.

NY 71-410

The records of Mr. SUMNER's organization reflected no information on the TROJAN or LEADER NEWS COMPANY. However, reporting agent was advised by HARRY KAHAN, a Special Agent for the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice, 215 West 124th Street, that he had been making a periodic check of the building at 480 Lexington Avenue inasmuch as that building houses the offices of many magazines of a questionable nature. According to notes he made on February 2, 1943, KAHAN stated that the "Spy Series" were published by HARRY DOWNFIELD and distributed his partner, PAUL BASPLINGER, who runs the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY at 480 Lexington Avenue. According to his notes, KAHAN stated the magazines are now published the same way and contain the same material, but are now called "The Speed Series". According to his notes, the magazines are sold out of town and when returns (unsold magazines) are sent back to New York City, the covers are partly mutilated and the magazines are then distributed through various book number stores in New York City. According to KAHAN, in his investigation of the building at 480 Lexington Avenue, the following names appear on the following rooms:

Room 704

PAUL E. BASPLINGER
INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY
ALFRED B. TAYNE

Room 927

TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY
FALCON SALES COMPANY
L. SCHUL
FRANK M. ARNER
FRANK W. PINE

Room 925

HARRY DOWNFIELD
W. ELLENBERG
J. S. LINDOWITZ
A. MINELL
MINNELL PUBLISHING COMPANY
R. M. SIMSEL
ROLLIN PUBLISHING COMPANY
WERNERMAN, INC.
EXECUTIVE COMICS, INC.
TILGEMAN PUBLISHING, INC.

NY 71-410

KAHAN further stated that in reference to the convictions obtained by SUMNER's office of news dealers in New York City selling "Spicy Series" these three persons were one JACK OPPENHEIM of 1994 Davidson Avenue, Bronx, who was arrested on September 14, 1934 for selling the July, 1934 issue of "Spicy Detective" magazine. OPPENHEIM pleaded guilty on September 22, 1934 before the Court of Special Sessions, New York City, and received a fine of \$100. or thirty days. The other conviction was against ARNOLD SCHWARTZ, 218 West 104th Street, New York City, who was arrested on October 24, 1934 for the sale of the October, 1934 issue of "Spicy Detective". He was tried before the Special Sessions Court, New York City, on October 31, 1934, found guilty and received a ten day suspended sentence.

A review of the records of the County Clerk for the County of New York reflects that the corporate papers for the TROJAN COMPANY were filed on December 29, 1933 and that the incorporators were: HARRY DORNFELD, FRANK ARNER and EUGENE GREENFELD, all of 400 Lexington Avenue, New York City, and the corporate papers reflected that each one owned one share in the Corporation. The original directors of the Corporation were DORNFELD, ARNER and GREENFELD, and they were to hold office until the first annual meeting of said Corporation. The number of shares to be issued was sixty shares of common stock without par value. The incorporation was handled by FELDMAN and GREENMAN, 400 Lexington Avenue, New York City.

Confidential Informant T-1 was interviewed by the writer and Special Agent Percy J. Landry at which time he advised that he had formerly, years ago, been in business with DORNFELD as an editor of various "snip" magazines. He described "snip" magazines as being those which are borderline cases of obscenity. According to his knowledge of DORNFELD and others associated with him, he stated that DORNFELD was, at one time, connected with the EASTERN DISTRIBUTION COMPANY in New York City. He stated that at this time, which was about 1930 if he remembered correctly, MICHAEL EBYOW was a salesman going about the country for the EASTERN DISTRIBUTORS. At this time, FRANK ARNER was a publisher who had come to New York City from California and put out various "snip" and "art" magazines. He stated that in about 1932, DORNFELD and SAMPLER started the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY and EBYOW worked for them for the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY. In about 1934, ARNER, who had his own magazine, found himself in financial difficulties and his magazine folded. It was about this time that FRANK ARNER got the original idea of the "Spicy Series" and sold it to DORNFELD and SAMPLER. At this time, DORNFELD and SAMPLER, who owned the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY, were putting out such magazines as "Snip", "Gay Partisans" and "La Fares". After ARNER had sold them the bill of goods on the "Spicy Series" the TROJAN COMPANY was formed to

publish the series and ARNER became a part owner of the Company. The TROJAN COMPANY printed the "Spicy Series" and the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY distributed them for some years. Some time, Informant T-1 did not know exactly when, NEWSON, who had always been a moving sort of individual, brought himself a piece of the TROJAN COMPANY. Some time shortly after DORNFELD got in trouble with the New York authorities, the LEADER NEWS COMPANY was formed as a device to rid the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY of all the so called "snep" magazines. The distribution of the "snep" magazines, such as the "Spicy Series", "Redist", "Stealing Parade", etc, was then turned over to the LEADER NEWS COMPANY. According to Confidential Informant T-1, this left the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY clean of any obscene matter and left the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY free to turn out the legitimate magazines which DORNFELD had under his control.

Confidential Informant T-1 stated that FRANK ARNER has always been interested mostly in detective magazines and that as far as he knows, ARNER has always edited such magazines himself. He stated that from gossip going around among the various individuals interested in the "Snep" series, he had heard that ARNER edits the "Spicy Series" himself. Knowing ARNER as he does, he assured that he at least edits the "Spicy Detective" series. According to Informant T-1, ARNER, himself, used to write stories for the various magazines. He did not know whether ARNER wrote for the "Spicy Series", but stated that as long as he knows ARNER, ARNER has always interested himself and has always been associated with the editing of magazines of the "snep" variety.

As to MICHAEL NEWSON, Informant T-1 stated he has never been an editor, but concerns himself mostly with the distribution and the business end of magazines.

Informant T-1 stated that JACK LIEBOWITZ has always been the "brains" behind DORNFELD, inasmuch as DORNFELD is a heavy drinker and high liver and has very little business ability.

ROBERT MAINWELL, whom it will be noted evidently occupies space in Room #33 with DORNFELD, was described by Informant T-1 as a profile writer, who writes under numerous pen names. According to Informant T-1, MAINWELL is also a fictitious name and MAINWELL has written and published for years in the "snep" magazines. According to Informant T-1, he believed that the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY had gotten into some difficulties about five or six years ago in Bowling Green, Kentucky inasmuch as the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY had been indicted by Federal authorities. He thought that at this time SAMPLER and DORNFELD had been arrested and that it was at quite a cost of money that they had been able to get out of the difficulties. He did not know the name of the magazine involved.

NY 71-610

But stated that it was printed by the INDEPENDENT PRESS, Louisville, Kentucky. He advised that neither DOHENFELD or SAMPLER had gone to jail on this indictment but that they had promised to stop distributing the magazine.

Informant T-1 was of the opinion that GUSIE DOHENFELD, a stockholder of the LAUREL NEWS COMPANY, is the wife of HARRY DOHENFELD. It was Informant T-1's opinion that judging from past performances, ABER would probably be the editor of the "Spicy Series" and that STROW would take care of the circulation while DOHENFELD is somewhere in the background getting his share of the profits of such magazines.

Informant T-1 was questioned as to the so called "starred" series and he stated that "starred" magazines have always been a practice in the "susp" magazine racket and that they are used when a magazine becomes "hot" in a particular town.

Informant T-1 advised that one JOHN GOLDWATER of 40 Duane Street is the one who buys most of the returned copies of "Spicy Series" for redistribution in New York City. Informant T-1 believed that GOLDWATER might be able to give more information.

No lead is being set out for the Louisville Field Division to ascertain the background of the INDEPENDENT PRESS and the Federal prosecutive action in connection with the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY as stated by Informant T-1, but this is being left to the discretion of Detroit as to whether or not such investigation should be made.

ENCLOSURE

DETROIT - Report of Special Agent J.E. Lawler dated December 16, 1936 at Buffalo, New York.

- P E N D I N G -

NY 71-420

UNRECORDED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Will check the records of the Special Sessions Court for information concerning the alleged conviction of ROSENFIELD on May 16, 1933 for publishing obscene material.

Will search the records of the Magistrates Court, New York City, for information concerning the hearing of FRANK ADLER on May 8, 1934 when he was charged with the editing of an obscene magazine.

Will attempt to locate JACK OFFENBERG, 1924 Davidson Avenue and DONALD SCHWARTZ, 218 West 10th Street, New York City, to ascertain whether or not they had had any conversations with the publishers of the "Spicy Service" concerning their convictions in September 23, 1934 and December 21, 1934, respectively in the Court of Special Sessions, New York City.

Will interview JOHN GOLDWATER, 40 Hudson Street, New York City, for any information he may have pertinent to this case.

NY 73-410

~~CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT~~

Confidential Informant T-1

He is being classified as a Confidential Informant at his own specific request.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

DETROIT FILE NO. **71-187**

REPORT MADE AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN	DATE WHEN MADE 4/14/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12/43	REPORT MADE BY FRANCIS P. PARKER
TITLE MICHAEL ESTROW; JOHN CUNEO; LYMAN L. HARRIS			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subpoena duces tecum served at New York City by Special Agent FRANCIS P. PARKER, Detroit, on April 5, 1943, calling for records of Culture Publishing Company, Trojan Publishing Company, and Leader News Company. Pertinent material secured and set out herein. Review discloses Culture Publishing Company now disbanded and that while in existence, shares held by Trojan Publishing Company. In conversation, ESTROW advises he never knew of any difficulties with police department at Detroit, Michigan because of "Spicy" series; and that he has been President of Trojan, Culture, and Leader since their inception, and FRANK ARNER has been Secretary and Treasurer. Refuses to disclose names of authors working for publications and advises he never reads magazines published by himself. Salary and dividend checks secured from above-named corporation set out herein. Grand Jury subpoenas served on [redacted] who will appear before Grand Jury, Detroit, Michigan, April 19, 1943.

- P -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent FRANCIS P. PARKER dated February 15, 1943 at Detroit, Michigan.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>John S. [signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 71-15791 8 APR 19 1943	RECORDED & INDEXED EX-31
COPIES OF THIS REPORT <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>3 - Bureau</p> <p>3 - New York City</p> <p>1 - USA Detroit</p> <p>1 - Detroit</p> <p>MAY 6 1943</p> </div> <div style="width: 40%; text-align: center;"> <p><i>[Handwritten initials and notes]</i></p> </div> <div style="width: 30%; text-align: right;"> <p><i>[Handwritten initials]</i></p> </div> </div>		

(Detroit file 71-157)

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE NEW YORK OFFICE

At NEW YORK CITY will fairly review the file entitled "CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC.; TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY" (New York file 71-229).

Will, at the offices of JOHN SUMNER, Suppression of Vice Committee, New York City, thoroughly interview SUMNER for any information in his possession relative to the "Spicy" series, and more in particular, to the knowledge on the part of MICHAEL ESTROW that this series has been in difficulty with the law and has in the past been considered obscene.

Will secure criminal records of HARRY DOMENFELD and MICHAEL ESTROW. Will determine from the New York Police Department the complete details surrounding the complaint filed on March 5, 1934, at New York City to the effect that HARRY DOMENFELD and others were publishing and distributing sex magazines, this complaint having been made by JOHN S. SUMNER. It will be noted that on January 15, 1935, he withdrew a previous plea of "not guilty" and entered a plea of "guilty." It will be further noted that indictment was returned against HARRY DOMENFELD on June 26, 1934 for the publication of obscene literature to which plea he pleaded "guilty" on January 23, 1935. This information is all contained in the report of Special Agent JOHN C. CARR dated October 22, 1942, at New York City.

Will, at the County Clerk's Office, determine the corporate set-up of the Trojan Publishing Corporation, 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City, it being noted that this is a New York Corporation. Will determine the date of incorporation and the distribution of stock since corporate inception.

THE DETROIT OFFICE

At DETROIT, MICHIGAN, will interview IVAN LUDINGTON of the Ludington News Company for specific information as to knowledge on his part of ESTROW'S having actually been advised that in the opinion of the Detroit Police Department the "Spicy" series were considered obscene.

Will follow information received from [redacted]

[redacted] following their appearance before the Grand Jury at Detroit, Michigan.

Will thoroughly interview JOHN BRICA, Wayne County Prosecutor, and WILLIAM DONLON, Wayne County Prosecutor, who rendered decisions on the

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

DETROIT FILE NO. **72-167**

REPORT MADE AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN	DATE WHEN MADE 2/15/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2, 3, 4, 5, 9/43	REPORT MADE BY FRANCIS P. PARKER
TITLE MICHAEL ESTROW; JOHN CUNEO; LUDAN L. HARRIS			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

IVAN LUDINGTON of the Ludington News Company furnished letters indicating pressure placed upon him by Independent News Company in 1939 to distribute "Spicy" series in City of Detroit. LUDINGTON advised that according to rumors HARRY DONNERFELD is still actually the owner of "Spicy" series, but that there is no way for him to substantiate this fact. United States Attorney, Detroit, reserves opinion on "Dan Turner Hollywood Detective" magazine, advising he is considering issuance of subpoena for review of books and records of involved corporations. Monsignor E. J. HICKIN, Detroit, Michigan, advised conference held between CAGNON, Attorney, League for Decency, and ESTROW. CAGNON presently not available for interview.

-2-

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent FRANCIS P. PARKER, dated October 2, 1942 at Detroit, Michigan.

Report of Special Agent JOHN O. CARR, dated November 12, 1942 at New York City.

Letter from the New York Field Division to the Bureau dated November 12, 1942.

Letter from the Bureau to the New York Field Division dated November 23, 1942.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>John S. [Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="text-align: right;"> 72-15-792-10 21 FEB 22 1943 72-124 </div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT: 3 - Bureau 3 - New York 1 - U.S. Detroit 2 - Detroit	[Handwritten initials and stamps]

(Detroit File No. 7-187)

Letter from the New York Field Division to the
Detroit Field Division dated December 4, 1939.

DETAILS:

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Mr. IVAN LODINGTON of the Lexington News Company,
Detroit, Michigan, furnished the writer with the
following letters from his file, which letters are relative to the
"Spicy" series of magazines and were directed to him by MICHAEL EISTROW
at the time MICHAEL EISTROW was connected with the Independent News
Company and was working as circulation manager for Independent News
Company under HARRY HANSENFIELD. These letters are set out as follows:

Independent News Co., Inc.
480 Lexington Avenue
New York City

September 29, 1939

Mr. Ivan Lodington
Lexington News Company
4743 Fourth Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

"Dear Ivan:

"I have your letter of September 25th and was certainly disappointed
that you were not able to do anything about the November SPICY DETECTIVE
and SPICY GUNSMAN.

"How about the future issues of those magazines and SPICY ADVENTURE and
SPICY MYSTERY? Shall we keep on shipping them or would you suggest that
we send you sample copies first for approval?

"Cordially yours,

INDEPENDENT NEWS CO., INC.

MICHAEL EISTROW /s/
Michael Eistrow

October 12,
1940

"Very Rev. A. J. Ricker
Quincy Bldg.
1234 Washington Blvd.
Detroit, Michigan

(Detroit File No. 71-167)

"Dear Father Hickey:

"I am enclosing a letter from one of our publishers and my answer to it.

"I am sending these to you to illustrate the kind of heat that is continuously on us to distribute this type of magazine.

"However, you can see by my answer to this letter that we are not going to distribute those magazines.

"If you will recall some years ago I discussed these magazines with you and the agreement I made with you at that time regarding this group still stands.

Very truly yours,

LINDINGTON NEWS COMPANY

Ivan Lindington

IL/s

Mr. Mike Patrov
Independent Sales Company
480 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York

"Dear Mike:

"Thank you for your letter of September 23rd, which we have given a lot of consideration.

"Fishing us to distribute the Spicy line at the present time embarrasses us considerably.

"I would like to help you out as much as I possibly can but I am afraid that the request you make is impossible to fulfill.

Very truly yours,

LINDINGTON NEWS COMPANY

Ivan Lindington

IL/s

(Detroit File No. 71-187)

Independent News Co., Inc.
480 Lexington Avenue
New York City

July 17, 1939

Mr. Ivan Lindington
Lindington News Co.
4795 Fourth Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Ivan:

Thank you for your letter of July 13. We would like to proceed a little differently in this matter of the SPICY DETECTIVE series. Rather than run into a lawsuit and get into heavy expenses, and also rather than take the magazines off the stands in Detroit, it seems to me I'd like to know just wherein the Police Department finds these magazines squarely within the classification of obscene literature.

Is it in the advertising, or certain references or words used in the stories? I cannot conceive of anyone in a metropolitan area like Detroit objecting to anything in these magazines. I think perhaps you can handle the situation so that we can make an attempt, at least, to cooperate by cleaning up the books according to their suggestions. We do not like to lose our Detroit sales.

I have not had an answer to my letter asking for a check for this month. As a matter of fact, we did not have any response to our various requests last month either.

I should like to hear from you at an early date.

Cordially yours,

INDEPENDENT NEWS CO. INC.

PAUL H. SEMPLINGER /s/
Paul H. Semplinger
President

s/h

Independent News Co., Inc.
480 Lexington Avenue
New York City

September 22, 1939

(Detroit File No. H-147)

Mr. Ivan Lindington
Lindington News Company
4734 Fourth Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Ivan:

Edward Albert advises that you are holding up distribution of the November SPICY INVESTIVE and SPICY EDITIONS.

Even tho I know you have had trouble in your city, still I am very disappointed that you were not able to get those two books shipped. We have always depended upon your distribution in Detroit.

We know that you have contacts with all the big shots in your city and they have never bothered you before to the extent that you have had to keep the copies off the stands.

There is nothing wrong with these books. However, if it takes a couple of bottles to fix things up, then take such steps. After all, you are in the business and can get the stuff wholesale.

Please see that those copies go out to your stands and let us hear from you.

kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

INDEPENDENT NEWS CO. INC.

Mike Estrov /s/
MIKE ESTROV

e/v

September 25, 1939

Mr. Mike Estrov
Independent News Co., Inc.
400 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Mike:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 22nd.

(Detroit File No. 71-157)

"There just isn't any way of taking care of November
SPICY INTRIGUE and SPICY GAMES. The prosecuting attorney won't
pass these two negatives.

"Very truly yours,

INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY

"H/s

"Independent News Co., Inc.
490 Lexington Avenue
New York City

October 14, 1940

"Mr. Ivan Lindington
Lindington News Company
4743 Fourth Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

"Dear Ivan:

"I am in receipt of your letter of October 12 saying that it would be
best for you not to handle any of our spicy books at this time.

"We know that it is just before our presidential election and the
authorities always clamp down in certain sections where they want to
show that they are doing some big things.

"If you recall, I wrote you regarding these books because Mr. SIMPSON
told me that when he saw you at the convention in Cleveland, you agreed
to make a distribution in some of your underlying territory. Even though
we cannot get a wide distribution, please let us know how many of each
of these books you can use for this special distribution as we know
you can sell quite a few of them with all the government activity you
are getting in Detroit now.

"Awaiting your reply.

"Cordially yours,

INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY, INC.
Mike Istrow /s/
MIKE ISTROW

E/1

(Detroit File No. 71-187)

July 13, 1939

Mr. Paul Sampson
Independent News Company
440 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Paul:

I am enclosing a letter received from the Detroit Police Department the other day. It is self-explanatory.

They intend to make a test case against one of these books very shortly, and I am wondering just how far you want to go to fight these boys.

Let us know at your earliest convenience so we can be governed accordingly.

Very truly yours,

LUXINGTON NEWS COMPANY

IL/s

May 4, 1939

Mr. Paul Sampson
Independent News Company
440 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Paul:

Enclosed please find check that should have reached you before the first of the month.

We have re-routed the entire city and have changed our check-up and collection dates, which has delayed our collections about a week. It will take a couple of months to get back into our regular schedule. This new arrangement will enable us to keep better records of our returns and give us better check-ups and promotion efforts.

The Catholic agitation against some of the magazines has caused a lot of premature returns on the spicy books and we are enclosing a revised order that will help eliminate some unnecessary returns.

Very truly yours,
LUXINGTON NEWS COMPANY

IL/s

(Detroit File No. 71-157)

	Revision of Order Former Order	Desired Order
Spicy Adventure	2000	1500
Spicy Detective	2000	1800
Spicy Mystery	1800	1400
Spicy Western	2000	1400

June 5, 1939

Mr. Paul Sampliner
Independent News Company
480 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Paul:

The Catholic ban on certain magazines has certainly raised the dickens with Stocking Parade and Real Screen Fun. We are laying out distributions of these two books and only need 1400 Real Screen Fun and 1700 Stocking Parade.

The dealers have been returning both of these magazines the last two weeks and although we have made every effort possible to put them out again among the other dealers, we find that we have quite a few on hand and are returning the same in our next shipment in order to lower the inventory here. This cut in order will eliminate that many returns.

Very truly yours,

LEWISTON NEWS COMPANY

IL/s

During the interview with IVAN LEWISTON, LEWISTON stated that although he had only rumor to go on and the facts were not substantiated to any degree and could not be used as evidence, it was his opinion that BARRY DOWNSFIELD still actually owns the four "Spicy" series of magazines and EYSON merely set up another company as a result of DOWNSFIELD's previous turnings in the City of Detroit over the distribution of this series of magazines. He further advised that DOWNSFIELD is the type of person that would give something of this type to a personal friend even though it might cost him sixty thousand dollars a year, which price it is estimated is received as a net profit from the distribution of these magazines in the United States. He stated that DOWNSFIELD is an extremely heavy drinker and that EYSON has always been extremely close to him and it is entirely possible that EYSON may have acquired these magazines although rumor has it that DOWNSFIELD is still the actual owner.

As far as the above set out letters are concerned Mr. LEWISTON asked that if this case goes to trial these letters be

(Detroit File No. 71-187)

seized from him legally as he has to carry on business with these publishers and he feels sure they would blacklist him were it known he voluntarily furnished them. He stated he did not desire to appear as a witness at the time of trial, but if these letters were seized and subpoenas issued, he would testify.

With reference to the opinion of Mr. WILLIAM HUGHES as regarding the magazine "Don Turner Hollywood Detective", copies of the February issue have been purchased in the City of Detroit from the news stand operated by ALICE BURNER, which stand, according to IVAN HARRINGTON, is actually owned by the Harris News Company and in a comparison with the copies previously furnished this office by the New York Office it is noted by Assistant United States Attorney JOSEPH C. MURPHY that the February issue has been cleaned up to a considerable extent. Mr. MURPHY is presently reserving his decision as to what action he will take as regarding "Don Turner Hollywood Detective".

In an interview with Monsignor E. J. HICKEY he advised that he is a chancellor of the Diocese of Detroit and one of the originators of the League for Decency. Monsignor HICKEY advised that he originally began the action against the "Spicy" series as far as the City of Detroit is concerned as he considered them sadistic and brutal to the normal child, and that a conference was held by Mr. RAY CANNON, attorney representing the League for Decency, and Mr. ESTER. Mr. CANNON is presently out of the City of Detroit, taking a rest at Tucson, Arizona and Monsignor HICKEY advised he will have CANNON contact the Detroit Field Division immediately upon his return to this district.

Upon interview Assistant United States Attorney JOSEPH C. MURPHY, advised that he believed it expedient to issue a subpoena for the purpose of having an agent thoroughly review the stock books of the corporations involved in the language of the "Spicy" series and the magazine "Don Turner Hollywood Detective". Mr. MURPHY states that he will shortly render a decision as to what should be contained within the subpoena and that he will issue the subpoena at that time. He advised that it is felt that a complete review of the stock books, the private correspondence relative to the cleaning up of certain issues of these magazines, the contracts between authors, illustrators, rewrite men and the company and any correspondence relative to the dictation by corporation heads as to the type of literature contained within these magazines should be thoroughly reviewed for the purpose of showing actual knowledge on the part of these corporation officials as to the contents of these magazines prior to distribution on the stands.

It is to be further noted that Assistant United States Attorney MURPHY has contacted STANLEY BURNETT, attorney for HARRIS of the

(Detroit File No. 71-187)

Karris News Company, for the purpose of acting as a witness in this case, stating he cannot testify against these people and still maintain his business.

It is felt that inasmuch as this subpoena will probably be served, there can be no harm in actually interviewing Mr. MICHAEL EBYSON even though Mr. HANES, attorney for EBYSON, has instructed EBYSON not to make a statement. The undeveloped lead in the report of Special Agent JOHN C. KARR, dated November 12, 1942 at New York City, asked advice of the Detroit Field Division as to the reasonableness of completing this lead. It is felt that the lead should be completed and EBYSON interviewed.

IRVING LUDWIGSON of the Independent News Company, furnished letters indicating pressure placed upon him by the Independent News Company in 1939 to distribute the "Spicy" series in the City of Detroit. LUDWIGSON advised that according to rumor HARRY DOWNFIELD is still actually the owner of the "Spicy" series, but that there is no way for him to substantiate this fact.

United States Attorney, Detroit, reserves opinion on "Dan Turner Hollywood Detective", advising he is considering issuance of subpoena for review of books and records of involved corporations.

Monsignor E. J. HICKEY, Detroit, Michigan, advised conference held between CHURCH, attorney, League for Democracy, and EBYSON. CHURCH presently not available for interview.

PENDING

(Detroit File No. 71-157)

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE NEW YORK FIELD OFFICE

At New York, New York, will thoroughly interview MICHAEL J. KATZ, president of the Leader News Company, for the purpose of securing full information relative to publication of the "Spy" series of magazines and as to whether or not he actually supervised the stories contained in them as well as the art drawings in them and as to the authors and illustrators and under what instructions they operate.

Will ascertain from him the corporate setup of the Culture and Trojan Publishing Companies and their connection with the Independent News Company.

THE DETROIT FIELD OFFICE

At Detroit, Michigan, will retain contact with Assistant United States Attorney JOSEPH C. MURPHY and determine whether or not he will issue subpoena duces tecum for the purpose of securing books and records from involved corporations. Will secure his opinion relative to the prosecution of the publishers of "Don Turner Hollywood Detective" magazine.

PENDING

cc: [initials]

Date: **RJC:DC**
71-1578 15
RECORDED
To: **February 23, 1943**
SAC, Detroit

From: **J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation**
Subject:

**MICHAEL ESTROW; JOHN CUNEO;
LYMAN L. HARRIS -
INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF
OBSCENE LITERATURE**

In accordance with the request contained in your letter dated October 30, 1942, there are enclosed photostatic copies of the income tax return and forms 1099 of Harry Donsky, 311 Central Park West, New York, New York, for the year 1941, and of the report of the Internal Revenue Agent covering the examination of the books and records of the taxpayer for this year.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has advised that the records of the Third Internal Revenue Collection District of New York do not disclose income tax returns for Michael Armer for the years 1940 and 1941.

In the event your office possesses information which would indicate returns should have been filed by this individual for the years mentioned, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue will be glad to make additional inquiries upon the receipt of such information.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____ **enclosure JWS**

Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

FEB 23 1943 P.M.

FEB 27 1943

RECEIVED - FBI
FEB 23 1 03 PM '43

Handwritten signatures and initials:
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

Handwritten initials:
[Signature]

Date: RJG:DO
71-1579-14
February 22, 1943
SAC, Detroit

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Subject:

MICHAEL ESTROW; JOHN CUNEO;
LYMAN L. HARRIS -
INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF
OBSCENE LITERATURE

In accordance with the request contained in your letter dated October 30, 1942, there are enclosed photostatic copies of the income tax returns and certain related documents of the following named persons for the years indicated:

Michael Estrow,
1000 Grand Concourse,
Bronx, New York. 1940
1941
and Form 1099

Harry Donskyfeld,
211 Central Park East,
New York, New York. 1940
and Forms 1099

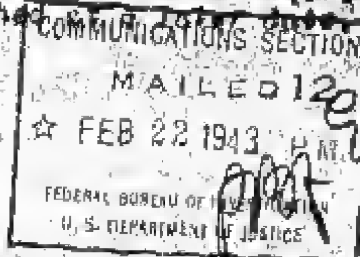
Frank Armer and
Janet Armer, (captioned), 1940
55 East 86th Street, 1941
New York, New York. and Forms 1099

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Piper
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

It is noted that the addresses on some of the returns differ from those given in your communication. However, it is believed these are photostatic copies of the returns which you desired.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has advised that copies of the other returns requested in your communication will be furnished.

Enclosure



24 FEB 25 1943

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

NY FILE NO. 71-410

als

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK CITY	DATE WHEN MADE 11/12/42	REPORT FOR MONTH MADE 6, 9, 10/42	REPORT MADE BY JOHN O. CASE
TITLE MICHAEL ESTROW; JOHN CUBER; L. HARRIS.			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: DOWNSFIELD, SAMPLINER, AND LIEBOWITZ state no connection of any nature between Independent News Company and Leader, Culture, or Trojan, except that Independent distributes "Private Detective" and "Super Detective" for Trojan. All state they have no knowledge as to type of material published by Trojan and Culture Publishing Companies. TAYLOR and MARSHALL state they have no knowledge as to type of material published by Trojan or Culture, and no knowledge as to whether MICHAEL ESTROW is or is not familiar with such material. MICHAEL ESTROW is President and FRANK ARNER is Secretary and Treasurer of Leader. Directors same with addition of STANLEY ESTROW. Officers and directors of Trojan (notably similar). No such person as MICHAEL ARNER. FRANK ARNER, and STANLEY ESTROW contacted Attorney HERMAN MANNES before giving any information. MANNES, believing criminal action imminent, advised STANLEY ESTROW and FRANK ARNER to furnish no information other than that previously given. Following discussion with STANLEY ESTROW and FRANK ARNER, MANNES advises that MICHAEL ESTROW does not read magazines published by Trojan, nor is he familiar with the contents, except the material he sees while engaged in their distribution and sale. MANNES advises FRANK ARNER selects cover paintings for all Trojan magazines and reads the magazines, not in their entirety, and not all issues published. States ARNER did not read any of October, 1942 issues prior to their going on sale. MATTHEWS edits "Spicy" magazines, purchases stories, and illustrations, and does proofreading. MATTHEWS not an officer of Trojan, but an employee at a fixed compensation. MANNES advises STANLEY

APPROVED AND
FORWARDED:

P. E. Fitzgerald, District Director

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

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7-1579-10

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1 - Detroit (2 copies) (five copies)

2 - New York

NOV 13 1942

NY

NY 71-410

ESTROW, as attorney, does collection work for Trojan, but that he does not select their story material, nor is he familiar with same. MITCHELL not interviewed as Trojan's attorney desires to be present when interviewed. List of employees of leader and Trojan not supplied. MICHAEL ESTROW will be advised by WARGEN to make no statement.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Letter from the Detroit Field Division to the New York Field Division dated October 30, 1942.

Report of Special Agent John C. Carr, dated November 3, 1942, at New York City.

NY 71-410

DETAILS: AT NEW YORK CITY

HARRY DOWNFIELD was interviewed at his office, Room 933, 480 Lexington Avenue. This address is the office of Superman, Inc. Mr. DOWNFIELD advised that the publication of Superman and the various novelties also marketed by Superman, Inc., such as Superman dolls and toys, are his chief business interest.

Mr. DOWNFIELD advised that the Independent News Company has absolutely no connection of any nature with the Trojan or Culture Publication Companies, or with the Leader News Company. Mr. DOWNFIELD advised that he has no knowledge as to the type of material which appears in the publications of the Trojan Publishing Corporation. Mr. DOWNFIELD advised that his wife is a stock holder in the Trojan Publishing Corporation, and Leader News Company, Inc., but that neither he nor his wife has any part in the active conduct of the business of these two firms.

Mr. JACOB F. LIEBOWITZ, Secretary and Treasurer of the Independent News Company, was interviewed at Room 933, 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City. It should be noted here with respect to LIEBOWITZ that he does not maintain his office quarters in the offices of the Independent News Company, which offices are also located at 480 Lexington Avenue. Mr. LIEBOWITZ advised that his chief duty in so far as the Independent News Company is concerned is the signing of checks, and that his more active business interests are in connection with the publication of the Superman comic strip and comic magazines. Mr. LIEBOWITZ stated that, so far as he knew, there was no connection of any nature between the Independent News Company, and the Leader News Company, Trojan Publishing Corporation, or Culture Publications. He stated that he had no knowledge concerning the type of material being published by the Trojan and Culture Publishing Companies, and that, consequently, he would have no knowledge as to the material contained in the October issues of the "spicy" magazines.

Mr. PAUL R. SAMPLINER, President of the Independent News Company, was interviewed at the offices of that company at 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City. Mr. SAMPLINER stated that there was no connection between the Independent News Company, and Leader, Trojan, or Culture. He stated that the Independent News Company owns no stock of Trojan, Culture, or Leader, and exercises no control over the material published by the Trojan, Culture or Leader Publications. He states that the only connection between Independent News Company, Inc., and the Trojan Publishing Corporation is that Independent presently distributes magazines named "Private Detective", and "Super Detective", for the Trojan Publishing Corporation, and that this matter is handled exactly as business transactions with other magazine publishers. Mr. SAMPLINER stated that both "Private Detective" and "Super Detective" are entered as second class matter, and are so distributed. PAUL SAMPLINER advised that MICHAEL ESTROW had been a friend of SAMPLINER's father, and has been, and is a life-long friend of his personally.

NY 71-410

and Treasurer of Leader News Company, Inc. He stated that no such person as MICHAEL ARMER existed, and that this confusion may have arisen through the combining of ESTROW's first name with his last name, and Mr. HERACE MARGES subsequently confirmed the information that there is no MICHAEL ARMER.

Mr. MARGES stated that his clients did not wish to supply a list of the personnel employed by the Trojan Publishing Corporation and Leader News Company, Inc., because they did not wish to have persons who exercised only clerical functions become involved in this matter.

Mr. MARGES stated that MICHAEL ESTROW has not as yet returned to New York City, but that he will advise ESTROW, a client of his, to make no statement concerning instant case, as prosecution appears to him probable.

MARGES was asked if there are other editors for the Trojan Publishing Corporation than WILTON MATTHEWS, and he declined to reply to such question.

It is to be noted that FRANK ARMER stated to the writer in a previous interview, "I am a magazine editor," although he did not state the magazines he edited.

There remains in this Field Division an outstanding lead to interview MICHAEL ESTROW, President of the Leader News Company, for information concerning the "spicy" magazines, and to secure from him a signed statement containing complete background of his connection with HARRY DENBYFIELD of the Independent News Company.

In view of the statement of MARGES, Attorney for ESTROW, that he will advise his client to make no statements in view of the fact that a prosecution appears imminent, the Detroit Field Division is requested to advise this office as to whether an attempt should be made to interview ESTROW or not.

There is also being forwarded to the Detroit Field Division for use in the prosecution of this case the November issues of "Spicy Adventure", "Spicy Western", and "Spicy Detective Stories", which magazines were furnished the writer by Mr. H. N. RALSTON, Vice-President of the Street and Smith Publications Company, 79 Seventh Avenue, New York City. Mr. RALSTON had Street and Smith representative A. K. SMITH of Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, secure these magazines, and the memorandum of A. K. SMITH, showing that the magazines were obtained at Sam's Newsstand, 7009 Garret Road, Upper Merion, Pennsylvania, is also being forwarded to the Detroit Field Division. Mr. SMITH's memorandum further reflects that "Spicy" magazines are not sold in Washington, and that distribution is limited at many other cities, but that they are sold in the Philadelphia territory.

In view of the fact that Mr. HERACE MARGES, Attorney for the Trojan Publishing Corporation and the Leader News Company, Inc., has advised the

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

FILE NO. **71-410**

127

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 11/3/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/27, 29/42	REPORT MADE BY JOHN C. GARR
TITLE MICHAEL ESTROW, JOHN CUNEO, LEON L. HARRIS			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Trojan Publications Corporation owns all stock of Culture Publications, Inc. Listed officers of Culture Publications, Inc. have been deceased since corporation began, and officers of Trojan Publications Corp. have been the real parties in interest. YAFFE, MARSHALL, MATTHEWS not officers of Culture Publications, Inc. since Feb. 1, 1942 and all gave signed statements reflecting that they never took any part in the conduct of the business but allowed friends and business associates the use of their names. MICHAEL ESTROW now President of Culture Publications, Inc. and FRANK ALLEN is Secretary and Treasurer; Board of Directors same, with addition of STANLEY ESTROW. Culture Publications, Inc. now in process of dissolution. BARRY JOHNSON stated to have no connection with either Trojan or Culture. Greysen and Leader have separate corporate entities although Leader set up to distribute for Trojan. October galley sheet for "SPICY DETECTIVE" obtained which gives list of distributors. Distributors of other SPICY magazines and of "DAN TURNER, Hollywood Detective" will be identical with those in galley sheet of "SPICY DETECTIVE". Rough copy of the stories published in the four SPICY magazines and in "DAN TURNER, Hollywood Detective" comes to Trojan Publications Corp. in a typewritten form or is typewritten at the Trojan office in NYC and furnished to the printer by railway express.

- 7 -

REFERENCES:

Report of Special Agent Francis P. Parker dated September 16, 1942 at Detroit, Michigan.

<p>APPROVED AND FORWARDED:</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i></p> <p>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</p> <p>1 - Detroit (1 was 1)</p> <p>1 - New York</p> <p>61 NOV 2 1942</p>	<p>DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES</p> <p>71-1577-7</p> <p>NOV 6 1942</p> <p>RECORDED</p> <p>INDEXED</p> <p>D 7</p>
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REMARKS: Report of Special Agent Paul E. Casny dated October 13, 1942 at Chicago, Illinois.
(cont'd) Teletype to the New York Field Division from the Detroit Field Division dated October 26, 1942.

DETAILS: The referenced teletype from the Detroit Field Division requested immediate interviews be set out in the reports of Special Agent Francis J. Parker dated September 16, 1942 at Detroit, Michigan and Special Agent Paul A. Casey, dated October 28, 1942, at Chicago, Illinois. This teletype further reflected that the Address of Culture Publications, Incorporated since January, 1939 have been ALFRED H. YAPPE, 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City, LESTER MARSHALL and HENRY MARTINSON, both of New York City. The New York Field Division was requested to interview YAPPE, MARSHALL, and MARTINSON and secure statements from them.

The writer telephonically contacted the office of HENRY HAYES at 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City, and he advised that HAYES was presently out of New York City, is not expected to return until mid-November, and that his office did not possess an itinerary by means of which it could get in contact with him.

MR. HERMAN MARGOL, Attorney for the Trojan Publications Corporation, with offices at 60 West 42nd Street, New York City, was interviewed, and he verified the statement that MICHAEL EBYSON was presently out of New York City and, in the writer's presence, he telephonically contacted EBYSON EBYSON, 400 Madison Avenue, New York City, a son of MICHAEL EBYSON and ascertained from him that MICHAEL EBYSON would return to New York City approximately November 16, 1942. Mr. MARGOL advised that he had previously made a trip to Detroit, Michigan and discussed instant case with the United States Attorney there, and that if the writer so desired he would have MICHAEL EBYSON immediately return to New York City in order that he might be interviewed. He stated that it was the desire of the Trojan Publications Corporation to cooperate in every way possible with this investigation.

Mr. HAFENT stated that the Trojan Publications Corporation owns all the stock of Culture Publications, Incorporated and that the incorporation and inception of the Culture Publications Incorporated, 1944, officials have always been dummy, and they have had no voice or part in the actual conduct of the business of Culture Publications Incorporated. He stated that Culture Publications Incorporated in reality, has been operated by the officers and active officials of Trojan Publications Corporation and that it was originally set up merely because Mr. JOHN C. HAFENT, the commanding head of the Bureau for the Suppression of Vice had created a great deal of difficulty for Culture Publications Corporation when the spy group of magazines were being published.

NY File No. 71-410

in New York City with Trojan Publications Corporation being actually absorbed as then as the publisher.

He stated that all contracts for the actual printing of the spy group of magazines are made by the Trojan Publications Corporation, although the magazines state that they are put out by the Culture Publications, Incorporated, Wilmington, Delaware.

MR. MARCUS stated that ALFRED YAFFE is employed by the Independent News Company at 420 Lexington Avenue, New York City, as well as LEONARD MARSHALL. He stated that VINCE MATTHEW is an editor for the Trojan Publications Corporation.

MR. MARCUS stated that in the event there was to be a prosecution in instant case, MICHAEL ROTHMAN and FRANK ANGER wished it was known that the listed officers of Culture Publications Incorporated are merely sham and have no acted out of personal friendship for them, and that if a criminal responsibility is to come, they wished to assume it themselves, and not have it upon men who have never been any more than dummies.

Mr. MARCUS stated that the Independent News Company is a competitor of the Leader News Company, Incorporated, and that there is absolutely no inter-company relationship. He stated that HARRY CONWELL had absolutely no connection with the Leader News Company, Incorporated or with the Trojan Publications Corporation. He stated that prior to the incorporation of the Leader News Company, Incorporated, which was chartered under New York laws on October 31, 1940, the Independent News Company had frequently operated as a distributing agency for the publications of the Trojan Publications Corporation but that this relationship had ended when Leader News Company, Incorporated was organized and that there now is no inter-company relationship between the two. He stated that the Trojan Publications Corporation is an entirely separate and distinct corporate entity from the Leader News Company, Incorporated, although it is to be noted that MICHAEL ROTHMAN appears to be President of both of these corporations. He stated that Leader News Company, Incorporated was formed to distribute the publications of the Trojan Publications Corporation in order to effect a saving in that it would not now be necessary to pay an outside distributor, such as the Independent News Company.

He telephonically contacted Mr. STANLEY ROTHMAN, son of MICHAEL ROTHMAN, in the writer's presence, and was advised that the Leader News Company, Incorporated is presently distributing for the Trojan Publications Corporation the four spy magazines as well as "WOMAN", "DAN TURNER, Hollywood Detective", "WOMAN DETECTIVE" and "PRIVATE DETECTIVE".

He stated that following his conference with the United States Attorney at Detroit, Michigan, the four spy magazines had been withdrawn from publication and that the "WOMAN" magazine has also been discontinued insofar as

NY File No. 72-410

distribution by the Leader News Company, Incorporated is in point. He stated that he had notified the publishers of the "WUJIST" magazine that the Leader News Company, Incorporated no longer wished to distribute this magazine; that they preferred to face a civil suit for breach of their contract with the "WUJIST" publishers rather than to face any possibility of criminal prosecution for distribution of "WUJIST".

MR. ALFRED YAFFE, who is auditor in the employ of Independent News Company at 480 Lexington Avenue, Room 704, New York City, advised that he also acted as auditor for the Trojan Publications Corporation but that Independent News Company and Trojan Publications Corporation were entirely distinct entities. He stated that he did not recall the exact period of time for which he had been President of Culture Publications Incorporated but he stated that he had never had an active part in the conduct of the business at any time, and he had merely acted at the request of LESTER or ALBERT, both of whom are personal friends of his. A statement reflecting such information was obtained from YAFFE and is being set out herewith:

480 Lexington Ave.,
New York City
October 29, 1942.

"I, ALFRED YAFFE, make the following voluntary statement to John C. Carr who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I was president of Culture Publications Incorporated until February of 1942. During the time I was president I had nothing to do with the conduct of its business and made no decisions pertaining to it. I merely allowed friends of mine to use my name in their conduct of the affairs of Culture Publications, Inc. I have read this statement and sign it willingly.

/s/ ALFRED E. YAFFE

Witness: John C. Carr, Special Agent, F.B.I."

The original of this statement is being forwarded to the Detroit Field Division.

MR. YAFFE stated that LESTER MARSHALL, who was also reflected to be an official of Culture Publications Incorporated, is presently an employee of Central Forwarders, Incorporated, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Independent News Company.

NY File No. 71-410

LESTER MARSHALL, upon interview, stated that he did not recall the exact period he has acted as an officer of Culture Publications Incorporated and stated that he had never had any active participation whatsoever in the business and had merely allowed EBYROW and ARMER, friends of his, the use of his name. A statement to this effect was taken from MARSHALL and is being set out herewith:

6480 Lexington Ave.
New York City
October 29, 1942

"I, LESTER MARSHALL, make the following voluntary statement to John C. Carr who has identified himself as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I was Secretary of Culture Publications Inc. until February of 1942. During the period I was secretary I had nothing to do with the conduct of the business and made no decisions pertaining to it. I merely allowed friends of mine to use my name in their conduct of Culture Publications, Inc. I have read this statement and sign it willingly.

/s/ LESTER MARSHALL

Witness:

John C. Carr, Special Agent, F.B.I."

The original of this statement is being forwarded to the Detroit Field Division;

WILSON MATTHEWS was interviewed in the offices of Trojan Publications Corporation, Room 927, 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City, where he is employed as an editor by Trojan Publications Corporation. He stated that he did not recall the exact period that he had acted as an officer for Trojan, but that he had never had an active participation in the business and had merely allowed ARMER and EBYROW the use of his name. A statement reflecting this information was obtained from MATTHEWS, and is being set out herewith:

6480 Lexington Avenue
New York City
October 29, 1942

"I, WILSON MATTHEWS, make the following voluntary statement to John C. Carr who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

NY File No. 71-410

"I was a director of Culture Publications, Inc. until Feb. 1942. During my period of directorship I had no part in any active conduct of the business. I merely allowed friends of mine to use my name in their conduct of Culture Publications, Inc. I have read this statement and sign it willingly.

/s/ WILSON MATTHEWS

Witness:

John C. Carr, Special Agent, P.B.L.

The original of this statement is being forwarded to the Detroit Field Division.

Mr. STANLEY EYTHON, Attorney, with offices at 400 Madison Avenue, Room 1508, New York City, who is the son of MICHAEL EYTHON, subject in this case, was interviewed. He stated that TAYLOR had been President and Treasurer of Culture Publications Incorporated until February 1, 1942, and that MARSHALL had been Secretary of Culture Publications Incorporated until February 1, 1942 and WILSON MATTHEWS had been a director of Culture Publications Incorporated until February 1, 1942. He confirmed the previous statements that the officers of Culture Publications Incorporated since its inception have been mere shadows and not the real parties in interest. On February 1, 1942 new officers took over Culture Publications Incorporated, and since that time MICHAEL EYTHON has been President, FRANK ARNER has been Secretary and Treasurer, and the Board of Directors consists of MICHAEL EYTHON, FRANK ARNER and STANLEY EYTHON. He stated that Culture Publications Incorporated had originally been set up in order to avoid difficulties with JOHN BUCHER of the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice. He stated that he sometimes acts as Attorney for the Trojan Publications Corporation and that he has already written to Corporations Fiscal at Wilmington, Delaware to arrange the dissolution of Culture Publications Incorporated inasmuch as Culture Publications Incorporated no longer serves any useful purpose.

He advised that the Trojan Publications Corporation is listed as the owner of all issued and outstanding stock of Culture Publications Incorporated at Wilmington, Delaware. He stated that under the Delaware Corporation laws it had not been necessary to file a notice of the change of officers in Culture Publications Incorporated, which took place on February 1, 1942. He stated that the only notice the share owners of Culture had ever had to take was to be presented with the minutes of the annual meeting once each year and to sign them. He stated that there was no connection between either Leader News Company, Incorporated or Trojan Publications Corporation and the Independent News Company. He advised that the Leader News Company Incorporated is a distinct and separate entity in all respects.

NY File No. 71-410

from Trojan Publications Corporation. He stated that Leader News Company, Incorporated, distributes for Trojan Publications Corporation the four Spicy magazines, "MAIL", an Army magazine, "FICTIONAL THRILLER" which is published by the Crestwood Publishing Corporation at 1750 Broadway, New York City, and that until recently the Leader News Company, Incorporated had distributed "SUMMER" and "WINTER" which is published by the Outdoor Publishing Company at Bay Landing, New Jersey, which magazine is more popularly known as "WINTER". He stated that Leader News Company, Incorporated also distributes "MAY DETECTIVE" which is published in Chicago, Illinois, and "THE TURNER, Hollywood Detective". He stated that publication of the "SPICY ADVENTURE", "SPICY WESTERN", "SPICY MYSTERY", and "SPICY DETECTIVE" would end with the December, 1942 issue which were published and ready for distribution in mid-October.

He advised that preceding the formation of Leader News Company, Incorporated, the Independent News Company had done distribution for the Trojan Publications Corporation.

It is noted from an examination of the records of Culture Publications Incorporated, as supplied by STANLEY EITON, that the first meeting was held on February 1, 1933 and that the directors elected at this time were JAMES DE PIERA ARNER, FRANK ARNER and LESTER LANE. STANLEY EITON stated that LESTER LANE had been a partner of FRANK ARNER's in an advertising business known as Combined Publishers, Incorporated. The records of the meeting of December 31, 1936 show that ALFRED YAVE was elected President and Treasurer and LESTER MINERALL, Secretary, and the records of the meeting of December 31, 1937 are identical with the exception that WILTON WATKINS was added to the Board of Directors. Examination of the minutes of later annual meetings reflected no change of officers. The change of officers did occur at a meeting held February 1, 1942 according to STANLEY EITON. The officers elected at that time have previously been set out.

FRANK ARNER, Vice President and Treasurer of Trojan Publications Corporation, Room 927, 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City was interviewed and he stated that Culture Publications Incorporated had originally been set up by the officials of Trojan Publications Corporation because of opposition to the Spicy magazines in New York City, and also because at the time of its incorporation, that no going was of financial assistance. He stated that the affairs of Culture Publications Incorporated have always been handled and that all activity of Culture Publications Incorporated has been governed by Trojan Publications Corporation, of which he and MINERALL EITON have always been the active figures. He stated that Leader News Company, Incorporated and Trojan Publications Corporation are separate entities, although Leader News Company, Incorporated was set up to make a distributing agency for the Trojan Publications Corporation which would obviate the necessity of paying an outside distributor approximately 2 cents per copy. He stated that Leader

NY File No. 71-410

News Company Incorporated are distributed for Trojan Publications Corporation the four Spicy magazines plus "DAN TURNER, Hollywood Detective", and that previous to the incorporation of Leader News Company Incorporated, the Independent News Company did distribute for Trojan Publications Corporation. He stated that the Independent News Company has no financial interest or any other interest of any nature in either Leader News Company, Incorporated or Trojan Publications Corporation.

Mr. ARNER advised that HARRY DOWNSFIELD has no interest in the management of either Leader News Company Incorporated or Trojan Publications Corporation. He stated that the Independent News Company distributed "PRIVATE DETECTIVE" and "TURNER DETECTIVE" for the Trojan Publications Corporation.

Mr. ARNER advised that the Indianapolis News Company, 680 Lexington Avenue, New York City, was unknown to him. This concern is mentioned in the reference report of Special Agent Paul E. Casey, dated October 13, 1942 at Chicago, Illinois. It is believed that this is a typographical error and that the concern referred to is the Independent News Company, at 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City.

He advised that the stock of Culture Publications Incorporated is owned in its entirety by the Trojan Publications Corporation and that the stock in both the Trojan Publications Corporation and the Leader News Company, Incorporated, is owned by him personally, MICHAEL KUTNER and MRS. HARRY DOWNSFIELD and EDWARD WASSERMAN, of Cleveland, Ohio who got possession of the same two years ago when financial difficulties arose which made it necessary to secure some money in a short space of time.

He again reported that HARRY DOWNSFIELD has no connection with the operation of Leader News Company Incorporated or Trojan Publications Corporation.

Mr. ARNER stated that manuscripts for the four Spicy magazines and for "DAN TURNER, Hollywood Detective" come to the Trojan Publications Corporation either typewritten or on occasion in longhand, and those in longhand are typed at the office of Trojan Publications Corporation and if those already typewritten do not require too much revision and correction, they are left in the same form in which they arrive. He stated that this manuscript is picked up daily by the Printers Sales Company of 999 Eighth Avenue, New York City, which performs a like service for other publishers. He advised that manuscripts are shipped together to bring down shipping expenses, that they are transmitted to the printers, the Crown Press, by railway.

He advised that the galley sheets for October would be obtained from the Leader News Company, Incorporated. He further stated to

NY File No. 71-410

that the list of distributors for "SPICY ADVENTURE", "SPICY WESTERN", "SPICY DETECTIVE" and "SPICY MYSTERY" would be identical except for the number of copies supplied to distributors. He advised that the list of distributors for any one of the Spicy magazines would also be identical with the distributors who received "DAN TURNER, Hollywood Detective".

Mr. ASHER prepared from the Leader News Company, Incorporated the October galley sheets containing the list of distributors for "SPICY DETECTIVE" magazine, and stated that distribution of the other three Spicy magazines and "DAN TURNER, Hollywood Detective" would be identical. This galley sheet, not being immediately available at the time of the writer's contact with Mr. ASHER, was sent to him by mail, arriving on the following day. Both the envelope in which the galley sheet was mailed and the galley sheet itself have been signed by the writer in order that the same may be properly identified. The galley sheet also indicates by pencilled figures next to the distributor's name the number of copies received by that dealer.

It will be noted that Leader News Company, Incorporated, is referred to as being located at 480 Lexington Avenue, and also at 111 East 47th Street, New York City. This is the Grand Central Palace Building and the addresses are identical except that entrance is made on different streets.

The Galley sheet containing the list of distributors for "SPICY DETECTIVE" magazine for October, 1942 is being forwarded to the Detroit Field Division for use in the prosecution of instant case. The names of the distributors are not being set out in this report.

ENCLOSURES

Enclosures for the Detroit Field Division -

- (1) Signed statement of ALFRED B. YAPF.
- (1) Signed statement of WILTON HATHEN.
- (1) Signed statement of LESTER MARSHALL.
- (1) Galley sheet for the month of October.
- (1) Envelope in which galley sheet was forwarded, from New York City, with stamp of Leader News Company, Incorporated on it.

- P E N D I N G -

NY File No. 71-10

UNRECORDED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

RE: LOU. NEW YORK

Will interview MICHAEL KATZ, President, Leader News Company, Incorporated, 111 West 47th Street, for full information relative to the four businesses mentioned in the body of this report and secure from him a signed statement containing complete background of his connection, past and present, with Mr. ROSENBERG of the Independent News Company, 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION ²

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

NY FILE NO. **71-410** **NY**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 10/22/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/7, 8, 20/42	REPORT MADE BY JOHN C. CASE
TITLE MICHAEL ESTROW; JOHN GUNEO; LYMAN L. ALBERTS			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Names and certain addresses of the offices of Gunco Press, Inc. and Leader News Company, Inc. set out. Postal inspectors, NYC, have no information concerning Spicy Mystery, Spicy Western, Spicy Detective, or Spicy Adventure magazines. Pertinent information from files of NY Field Division set out, and ESTROW not interviewed because of name. Information as to background and business connections of HARRY DOWNSFIELD set out. Detroit office requested to advise as to further desired investigation. Certificate of Incorporation of Culture Publications, Inc. set out.

- P -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent Francis P. Parker, dated September 16, 1942, at Detroit, Michigan.
Teletype from Detroit Field Division to Baltimore, Chicago, and New York Field Divisions, dated September 16, 1942.

DETAILS:

For the information of the Detroit Field Division, there is being incorporated in instant report material in New York file 71-229, in which the New York Field Division is office of origin.

59 NOV 4

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 71-1574-16 15 OCT 23 1942	RECORDED D63 EX-39
② - Bureau ② - Detroit (1 - USA) ② - Chicago ① - Milwaukee (Information) ② - New York		

The first report in New York file 71-229 is that of Special Agent C. F. Lannan, dated October 2, 1935, at New York City, entitled "CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC.; TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY." New York file 71-385 was closed with the report of Special Agent C. F. Lannan, dated April 2, 1936, at New York City. Such material contained in the New York file as it is believed will be of assistance to the Detroit Field Division in instant case is being set out.

The investigation reflected in New York file 71-229 was predicated upon a letter from the Bureau, dated July 13, 1935, together with copies of a letter from Mr. Charles A. Brodeck, 72 Wall Street, New York City, relative to Culture Publications, Inc., who were allegedly the publishers of Spicy Adventure stories, Spicy Detective stories, and Spicy Mystery stories. Mr. Brodeck was at that time attorney for the Street and Smith Publishing Company, and the complaint concerning the previously mentioned magazines was named by Mr. E. V. Halston, manager of the Street and Smith Publishing Company.

The report of Special Agent C. F. Lannan, dated October 2, 1935, at New York City, reflects that Mr. T. M. Stewart, vice president in charge of the Neo-Gravure Printing Company, a subsidiary of the Cuneo Press, Inc. of Chicago, Illinois, was interviewed and advised that Spicy Mystery, Spicy Adventure, and Spicy Detective magazines were published by the Cuneo Press, Inc. in Chicago, Illinois, but that the contract for publishing was made by the Neo-Gravure Printing Company in New York City; that the contract was made with the Trojan Publishing Company, 680 Lexington Avenue, New York City, which address is also known as 125 East 48th Street, New York City; and that the contract was signed by a man by the name of DOMINFIELD, who was then president of the Trojan Publishing Company.

Mr. T. M. Stewart further stated that in connection with the publication of these magazines, it is the custom of the Cuneo Press, Inc. of Chicago, Illinois, to print and ship these magazines by express and freight to the various distributors throughout the United States who have been designated by the Trojan Publishing Company as distributors.

and that it is the practice of the distributors to furnish the Ouse Press, Inc. of Chicago, Illinois, with a monthly list of sub-distributors, who in turn distribute them to the various news dealers.

Mr. Stewart further stated that the name of Culture Publications, Inc. meant nothing to him or to the Ouse Press, Inc. inasmuch as their contract for the printing of these magazines is with the Trojan Publishing Company, and he advised that he did not comprehend why the title page of the three above-mentioned magazines shows Culture Publications, Inc. as the publishers.

Mr. Stewart stated that the proof for the above magazines was not read by any one in his organization; that they are received directly from the publisher, turned over to the typesetter, who prepares the type which prints them, after which they are bundled for distribution in accordance with the list furnished by the distributors.

The report of Special Agent O. F. Lamm, dated October 22, 1935, at New York City, reflects that a check at the County Clerk's office, New York City, showed that the Trojan Publishing Company was incorporated on December 27, 1933, at New York City, by HARRY DORSEY, Frank Lee, and Leo Greenwald.

Agent Lamm interviewed Mr. John Sumner, head of the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice, who advised that he had little information concerning the Spicy Group of magazines. Mr. Sumner stated that it was his opinion that they are really published by HARRY DORSEY, head of the Trojan Publishing Company, and that any connection between Culture Publications, Inc. and the Trojan Publishing Company would be difficult to uncover inasmuch as DORSEY would not wish such facts known. Mr. Sumner stated that a Marie Hersey, who was formerly the editor for DORSEY, might prove a valuable source of information concerning him.

The New York file contains a letter from the Independent News Company, Inc., 440 Lexington Avenue, New York City, dated October 28, 1935, which was originally sent to the Street and Smith Publications, and was then turned over to this office. The letter reflects that as of that date the Independent News Company, Inc. was distributing the following magazines:

PEP
SPICY
LA PAREE
GAY PARISIENNE
SHAPPY
SPICY DETECTIVE
REAL SCREEN FUN
SPICY ADVENTURE
SPICY MYSTERY
THE NUDIST
KIDTIME STORIES
TATTLE TALKS
GAY BROADWAY

The report of Special Agent M. E. Gurnea, dated November 2, 1935, entitled, "CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC.; TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY," which is a part of New York file 71-229, reflects the following information, secured from an interview with Mr. J. F. Snyder, General Manager, Cuneo Press, 22nd and Canal Streets, Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Snyder stated he wanted it thoroughly understood that the Cuneo Press is merely the printer of the Spicy group and not the publisher. He advised that all instructions as to the printing and distribution come directly from the Trojan Publishing Company in New York City. The original manuscripts are forwarded from the Trojan Publishing Company at 125 East 40th Street, New York City, to the Wisconsin Cuneo Press, 4400 North Fort Washington Road, Milwaukee, where templates are prepared. A template is a thin metal impression of the type which has been set up for each page of a publication. These templates are forwarded to the Cuneo Press at Chicago, where the magazines are printed, bundled, and shipped as per a monthly mailing list supplied by the Trojan Publishing Company.

Prior to the shipment of a publication, the Trojan Publishing Company deposits with the Cuneo Press at Chicago an amount sufficient to cover express and freight charges, and the Cuneo Press is also supplied monthly with a mailing list known as a galley sheet, and labels which compare with the galley sheet to be put on each package shipped. Following the shipment of each publication, the express and freight bills are marked paid, and then forwarded by the Cuneo Press to the Trojan

Publishing Company for verification of express charges. It will be noted that these transactions are arranged in such a manner that after each shipment is completed, there will be no evidence whatever left in the possession of the O'Connell Press at Chicago. Contracts in the possession of the O'Connell Press, Inc. were signed by Frank Armour, Treasurer, Trojan Publishing Company, 125 East 40th Street, New York City.

The report of Special Agent J. E. Johnson, dated November 9, 1933, at Cincinnati, Ohio, reflects that the New York distributor of the Policy group of magazines is one Samliner, 420 Lexington Avenue, New York City.

The report of Special Agent J. E. Lawler, dated November 11, 1933, at Buffalo, New York, reflects the results of an interview with [redacted] who was reluctant to furnish any information to Agent Lawler because she stated that if HARRY DOWNFIELD learned that she had furnished such material, her life would be in danger.

[redacted] stated that when she first worked for DOWNFIELD, he was operating the Merrill Publishing Company at 420 Lexington Avenue, New York City, and that subsequent to that, DOWNFIELD and Paul Samliner formed the Independent News Corporation, which was financially backed by Mrs. Frank, the mother of DOWNFIELD. She advised that she did not believe DOWNFIELD was connected with the Culture or Trojan Publications, but that Paul Samliner and Frank Armour were owners and publishers of these two companies. [redacted] stated that DOWNFIELD had been reared on the East Side with Jessie Fein, a known gangster and racketeer in New York City, and that it was through Fein that DOWNFIELD forced associates to accept his publications.

New York Police Department files reflect that DOWNFIELD was arrested in November, 1933, charged with violation of Section 1161, P. U., which is a violation of the policy racket, and he pleaded guilty to the charge.

The files of the Identification Division of this Bureau were checked concerning DOWNFIELD, and by letter dated November 21, 1933, the Bureau advised that the Identification Division had no record in the Fingerprint Section concerning DOWNFIELD.

Indictment was returned against DOWNEYFIELD on June 26, 1934, for the publication of obscene literature, to which he pleaded guilty on January 23, 1935. He was fined \$250, and sentenced to six months in prison. Execution of the prison term was suspended during the good behavior of the defendant.

The report of Special Agent T. O. Melvin, dated December 4, 1935, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, reflects that Mr. D. A. Foreberg, vice president and general manager, Wisconsin Quince Press, Inc., 4400 North Fort Washington Road, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was interviewed and he stated that the Wisconsin Quince Press has been handling work for the Culture Publications, Inc. and the Trojan Publishing Company since January, 1935; that the original contract between the Quince Press and the latter two companies was entered into with the Chicago office of the Quince Press; and that their correspondence has been with Frank Arner, R. Schol, W. Mathews, and E. W. Hutchinson, concerning the proofs of the manuscripts of the Spicy group. Mr. Foreberg stated that the manuscripts themselves are sent by express; that the time is limited; and that they are shipped by air express. After the proofs are prepared, they are sent back to the Trojan Publishing Company at 125 East 45th Street, New York City, who then return the proofs to the Wisconsin Quince Press, where the templates are then sent to the Quince Press, Chicago, Illinois, for printing and distribution.

The report of Special Agent J. N. Lawler, dated December 16, 1935, at Buffalo, New York, sets out information concerning MICHAEL ESTROY, who would appear to be identical with the MICHAEL ESTROY who is being carried as a subject in instant case. The information came from [redacted] who was then at [redacted]

[redacted] stated that HARRY DOWNEYFIELD employed her because she knew a great deal concerning postal regulations, particularly as regards to second class entries. She stated that DOWNEYFIELD employed her [redacted] that he incorporated the Merriwell Publishing Company; and that he also owned a printing establishment at 175 Varick Street, New York City.

[redacted] informed that Frank Arner and Sam Sampliner organized Eastern News, a distributor, in which they were joined by a man named Dreyfuss, whose father organized the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team; that the concern went into bankruptcy and the entire blame was placed on Dreyfuss; and that it cost Dreyfuss, Sr. \$100,000 to clear his son's name.

NY 71-419

[redacted] stated that Sampliner probably during 1933 approached DOWNFIELD with the idea of distributing and publishing pulp magazines, and that Mrs. Frank, who is Sampliner's mother and not DOWNFIELD's as was previously reported, put up \$10,000 for a share in a business known as the Independent News Company. Frank Arner and MIKE ESTROW came into the publication end of the business with Sampliner. Sampliner, Arner, and ESTROW, with the assistance of their strong-arm crews, forced newstands to buy their books and not to sell those of competing publishers. [redacted] stated that Sampliner, Arner, and ESTROW are believers in using the strong-arm method in forcing their competitors out of business.

The information set forth thus far in this report is all contained in New York file 71-330, and is being set forth because it appears that such information is necessary for proper investigation of instant case, and because some of the magazines and some of the persons mentioned in the New York case file are again being investigated in connection with Detroit file 71-107, which is instant case.

The first lead set forth for the New York Field Division in reference report is not being covered inasmuch as it would appear from a review of files in the New York office that an interview with ESTROW would not only be unproductive, but would probably serve to place him and his associates on their guard. For the same reason, the second lead set out in reference report for the New York Field Division is not being covered.

The following information was obtained from the files of Confidential Informant T-1.

Informant's files reflect that the Leader News Company, Inc. are magazine distributors at 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City, and are also known at 114 East 47th Street, Room 1112, New York City. On September 26, 1943, NICHOLAS ESTROW, president of Leader News Company, advised a representative of Confidential Informant T-1 that the Leader News Company had not been and is not presently the subject of any litigation. ESTROW stated that HARRY DOWNFIELD has no connection with the Leader News Company, Inc., but he declined a further elaboration of this statement. Therefore, though it is reported that DOWNFIELD does not appear as an officer or director of the Leader News Company, Inc., it is not known as to whether he has or does not have a financial interest in the concern. A list of the magazines distributed was not made available to a representative of Confidential Informant T-1.

MICHAEL ESTROW is the president of Leader News Company. The latest telephone directory for Manhattan lists MICHAEL ESTROW at 114 East 47th Street, which is the same address as that of the Leader News Company, Inc. There is also a listing for MICHAEL ESTROW at 1000 Grand Concourse, Bronx (Telephone: Jerome 6-0294).

The files of Confidential Informant T-1 reflect that Mike Arner is vice president and treasurer of Leader News Company, Inc., and that the directors are MICHAEL ESTROW, Mike Arner, and Stanley Estrow. The present Manhattan telephone directory lists a Stanley Estrow as an attorney with offices at 400 Madison Avenue (Telephone: PLaza 8-3615), and gave his residence as 77-35 113th Street, Forest Hills, Long Island (Telephone: BOulevard 6-8618).

Leader News Company, Inc. was chartered under New York laws on October 31, 1940, with an authorized capital of 100,000 shares of no par value common stock. MICHAEL ESTROW is stated to be middle-aged, married, and president of Trojan Publishing Company, publishers of magazines at the same address given for the Leader News Company, Inc. The Trojan Publishing Company was organized under New York laws on December 28, 1932, with an authorized capital of sixty shares of common stock without par value, and MICHAEL ESTROW has been its president since its inception. Prior to that time he was identified with the Independent News Company as sales manager, which is also located at the identical address and closely affiliated with the Trojan Publishing Company.

Mike Arner is forty-six years old, married, and vice president of Trojan Publishing Company. He has been employed in the advertising department of Arner, Brown and Company, Hollywood, California, and in the advertising department field by Famous Players, Hollywood. He came to New York City in 1923, and became vice president and general business manager of Myron Zobel Publications, Inc., withdrawing in 1924 to conduct an advertising agency individually until 1933, when he became secretary and treasurer of Modern Publications, Inc., which continued the business previously operated by him as an individual.

According to the management, there are no inter-company relations between the Trojan Publishing Company and the Leader News Company, Inc., except that the Leader News Company functions as a distributor for the magazines of the Trojan Publishing Company.

According to the reports of Confidential Informant T-1, the Leader News Company, Inc. was organized to function as national distributors of magazines and it maintains small office quarters on the eleventh floor at 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City, and occupies larger quarters under lease on the eleventh floor of the Grand Central Palace building. On September 15, 1942, MICHAEL ESTROW, president, named the officers as previously set out, and stated that volume for 1942 was holding up well with that of preceding years. It is believed that the Leader News Company, Inc. banks with the Manufacturers Trust Company at 43rd Street and Fifth Avenue, New York City.

The files of Confidential Informant T-1 reflect that the officers of the Trojan Publishing Corporation are MICHAEL ESTROW, president and secretary, and Frank Arner, vice president and treasurer, and that the directors are the same. The offices are at 480 Lexington Avenue, 135 East 48th Street, and 115 East 47th Street, New York City.

The Trojan Publishing Corporation was incorporated under New York laws on December 26, 1933, with a capital of sixty shares of common stock of 50 per value. The Trojan Publishing Corporation are publishers of pulp magazines in the lower price range, but the various titles were not disclosed of these magazines. Distribution is made through an affiliate, the Independent News Company, and sales are made to news dealers and stands for cash. The Trojan Publishing Corporation owns no printing plant of its own, and all work is done by outside printers on a contract basis. On February 24, 1942, Frank Arner declined to furnish financial details to a representative of Confidential Informant T-1. The corporation bank is believed to be the Manufacturers Trust Company, 43rd Street and Fifth Avenue, New York City.

The files of Confidential Informant T-1, as of August 21, 1942, reflect that the Independent News Company, Inc., distributors of magazines, maintain offices at 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City, and in Room 704, Grand Central Palace, New York City. The officers are Paul E. Sampliner, president, Jacob F. Lishevitz, secretary and treasurer, and HARRY DOWNHILL, vice president. The directors of the company are the officers. The Independent News Company, Inc. was incorporated under New York laws on September 9, 1932, with an authorized capital of 200 shares of 50 per value common stock.

Alfred Yaffe, auditor, stated that the Independent News Company has a wholly owned subsidiary called Central Forwarders, Inc., which was chartered under New York laws on April 24, 1932, with a capital of 200 no par value shares. The offices of Central Forwarders, Inc. are reported to be identical with those of the Independent News Company, Inc., and it is virtually a traffic department of the parent company, although Yaffe refused to give inter-company details.

Paul Sampliner is reported to be 43 years old, married, and native born. It is reported that he came to New York City from Cleveland, Ohio, where he was in the Ready to Wear line. He entered the publishing field in New York City as an employee and in 1932, he became treasurer of Myron Vogel Publications, Inc., which company issued Sargoland magazine at 145 East 57th Street, New York City. The files of Confidential Informant T-1 reflect that Sampliner organized on November 17, 1934, the Eastern Distributing Corporation, of which he was president, and which concern was engaged in the distribution of magazines at 304 East 45th Street, New York City.

On September 7, 1932, an involuntary petition in bankruptcy was filed against the Eastern Distributing Corporation. In May, 1933, Sampliner stated that creditors got about ten per cent on their claims, and he inferred that there would be no further payments. Sampliner then became president of Independent News Company, Inc., in which he states he controls fifty per cent of the stock, which, however, is held in his wife's name.

Jacob F. Liebowitz is reported to be 44 years old, married, and native born. He is a certified public accountant with offices at 11 West 42nd Street, New York City, and is reported to be an officer of the Merrill Publishing Company, Inc., Denny Press, Inc., and Tilson Publications, Inc.

The files of Confidential Informant T-1 reflect that HARRY DOWNFIELD was formerly affiliated with the Merrill Publishing Company, Inc., Denny Press, Inc., and the Elm Press, Inc., and appears to be president of Tilson Publications, Inc., at 114 East 47th Street, New York City. It will be noted that this is the same address used in part by the Leader News Company, Inc. and that the Trojan Publishing Company operates partially at 116 East 47th Street. On June 8, 1933, DOWNFIELD filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy alleging liabilities of \$29,968 and no assets. He received his discharge in bankruptcy on November 23, 1933.

On March 8, 1934, a notice appeared in the public press of New York City to the effect that DOWNFIELD and others had been requested to appear before a Magistrate on complaint of John B. Seamer, who is the

head of the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice. It was alleged that DOWNFIELD was publishing and distributing sex magazines. An indictment was returned against DOWNFIELD on June 26, 1934, charging publication of indecent literature. On June 28, 1934, he pleaded Not Guilty, and was admitted to bail. The charge against DOWNFIELD was a misdemeanor but the matter was transferred to the Court of General Sessions in order that he might be afforded a jury trial. On January 15, 1936, he withdrew his previous plea of Not Guilty, and entered a plea of Guilty. He was fined the sum of \$250 and sentenced to sixty days in the City prison, which sentence was suspended.

The files of Confidential Informant T-1 reflect that the Independent News Company, Inc. is engaged in the distribution of magazines published by local publishers, some of whom are affiliated with the corporation. Distribution of comic magazines makes up about 75% of the corporation's business, which exceeds two million copies per month. They distribute detective, western, and motion picture magazines, and sales are made to wholesalers throughout the United States on thirty-day terms. The corporation banks at the Manufacturers Trust Company, 43rd Street and Fifth Avenue Branch.

Further information in the files of Confidential Informant T-1 under date of October 30, 1941, reflect that DOWNFIELD maintains an office at 430 Lexington Avenue, Room 935, New York City. At that time DOWNFIELD was 48 years old, married, and native born. It was reported that he was not in business on his individual account, but that he appears as officer of a number of concerns engaged in publishing among which are Superman, Inc., and Detective Comics, Inc. In 1925 DOWNFIELD became president of the Funn Press, Inc. In June, 1931, he became the principal in the Denny Press, Inc. It is noted that Jacob Liebowitz is now president of Denny Press, Inc., and he stated to a representative of Confidential Informant T-1 that DOWNFIELD holds no interest in that corporation, having retired as an officer in 1934. DOWNFIELD is now president of Filson Publications, Inc. and Mervill Publishing Company, Inc., jobbers of paper. It is believed that DOWNFIELD is president of Superman, Inc.

The files of Confidential Informant T-1 reflect much information concerning the Cuneo Press organization and its many affiliates. This material is not being set out in its entirety, as it is noted that the Chicago Field Division has been requested to make inquiry concerning the Cuneo Press. The Cuneo Press is termed as "one of the largest commercial printing enterprises in the world, presently printing more than 25 different magazines of national circulation." The officers of the Cuneo Press, Inc. are as follows:

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

Washington, D. C.

Detroit, Michigan

October 30, 1942

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: MICHAEL ESTROY
JOHN GUNDO
LILIAN L. PHARRIS
INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE
LITERATURE

Dear Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the Bureau secure copies of the income tax returns for the following listed individuals for the years 1940 and 1941. These copies are needed in connection with the investigation of the above captioned case:

1. MICHAEL ESTROY, President, Leader News Company, 114 East 47th Street, New York City, New York.
Home Address: ~~1200 Grand Con-~~
course, Bronx, New York.
2. JOHN DOWNSFIELD, Vice President, Independent News Company, 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City, New York.
3. FRANK ARLEN, Vice President and Treasurer, Leader News Company, 114 East 47th Street, New York City, New York.
4. MICHAEL ARLEN, alias Mike Armer, Vice President and Treasurer, Leader News Company, 114 East 47th Street, New York City, New York.

Yours truly,

JOHN S. DUNAG
Special Agent in Charge



FPP:LKO
cc-New York

COPY IN FILE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

2/13/42

This Case Originated At DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Detroit File No. 71-187

Report Made At DETROIT, MICHIGAN	Date 9/16/42	Period 9/11, 14, 15, 42	Report Made By FRANCIS P. PARKER	ie
Title MICHAEL ESTROW; JOHN CUNEO LYMAN L. HARRIS.			Character INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE.	

OBSCENE

SYNOPSIS:

MICHAEL ESTROW is publisher of magazines sold and known as "SPICY MYSTERY," "SPICY WESTERN," "SPICY DETECTIVE" and "SPICY ADVENTURE", which magazines are purportedly printed by the Cuneo Press, Incorporated, Chicago, Illinois, and shipped by Cuneo Press to various local distributors in cities throughout the country. These magazines were banned by Sergeant HERBERT CASE, Detroit Police Department Censor, on December 11, 1940, on the grounds of obscenity and have not been distributed since within the City of Detroit. The magazines, however, have continued to be shipped to the City of Detroit to the Harris News Company, owned by LYMAN L. HARRIS, from which point they have been distributed to Mount Clemens, Michigan, and other points without the city limits of Detroit. Copies of October issues of these magazines purchased at City News Depot, Mount Clemens, Michigan, and said copies after being reviewed by Assistant United States Attorney JOSEPH C. MURPHY, Detroit, Michigan, declared to be obscene. MURPHY presently holding in abeyance decision pertaining to prosecution. ESTROW is president of the Leader News Company, 114 East 47th Street, New York City, which company is reported a subsidiary of the Independent News Company, 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City. Magazines contain statement they are published by Culture Publications, Incorporated, editorial offices 900 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware.

-P-

Approved: <i>John S. [Signature]</i> SAC	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
Copy Distribution of <i>[Stamp]</i>	71-1579-1	RECORDED
3 - Bureau	SEP 22 1942	INDEXED
2 - Baltimore	SEP 23 1942	751
1 - Chicago		
3 - New York		
1 - USA D		
2 - Detroit		

(Detroit file 71-187)

"future he would be a very different man, but to-night--tonight, heartsick as he was..."

"She linked his arm through hers and pressed her curving breast against his arm, and Nels went with her."

It will be noted in particular that in the story entitled "DON'T LIE YET" by JOHN WAYNE, beginning on page 74 of the October issue of "SPICY ADVENTURE", the story involves a husband, wife, and the husband's best friend who are located in a jungle. While the husband is dying, the wife is attempting to force sexual relationship upon the husband's best friend. Failing to do so, she runs from the cabin and forces herself upon a neighbor. In the opinion of Assistant United States Attorney MURPHY this and the foregoing stories are particularly obscene, especially when they are available on public news stands to individuals of any age, including children. In view of this, Assistant United States Attorney MURPHY requested that additional information be secured to reflect the fact that these magazines were shipped in interstate commerce, following which he would give a final decision on prosecution.

It will also be noted that the above magazines contain freehand drawings and cartooning, which cartooning is extremely suggestive and which attempts to put as little clothing as possible and as much dishabille as possible on all female characters.

The writer interviewed LYMAN L. HARRIS and SAMUEL HARRIS and was advised by LYMAN L. HARRIS that he was president and owner of the Harris News Company, located at 2821 Brooklyn Street, Detroit, Michigan, and that he was the employer of SAMUEL HARRIS, his brother. He stated that he conducts his business as a distributor of magazines among news stands in the City of Detroit and that the four magazines in question were secured by him through the publisher, MICHAEL ESTROW, president of the Leader News Company, 114 East 47th Street, New York, New York. He advised that he had previously dealt with a Mr. DONNEFELT of the Independent News Company, 480 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York, but that this company had had difficulty with the Spicy Series and he believed ESTROW had merely set up a false front with the Leader News Company to handle this magazine. He stated that he believed that the Spicy Series had had their Second Class Mailing Privileges revoked in the city of New York several years ago, and he believed the action had been the result of action taken by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

LYMAN L. HARRIS stated that he receives these magazines from the Cuneo Press, Incorporated, Chicago, Illinois, of which company JOHN CUNEO is the president. He stated that it is the usual procedure for ESTROW to send a copy of the magazine to the Cuneo Press, which company prints and ships the magazine to other distributors throughout the country. He stated that usually he receives shipments from the Globe Cartage Company, located at 2299 South Wacker Street, Chicago, Illinois, telephone Haymarket 4050; the Interstate Motor Freight Company, Chicago, Illinois, or the Port Huron Railroad,

(Detroit file 71-187)

Detroit, Michigan. HARRIS produced at this time copies of the original freight bill number 36484, stamped Pere Marquette Railroad Company, Detroit, Michigan, August 20, 1942, calling for four bundles of the "Spicy Mystery", 200 copies, which is the waybill receipt for the October issues of the "Spicy Mystery." He stated that he had previously destroyed the waybills for "Spicy Adventure", "Spicy Detective", and "Spicy Western." This receipt shows as shipper, Gunco Press Company, Chicago, Illinois, and the consignee, Harris News Company, 2821 Brooklyn. This original freight bill is being retained in the files of the Detroit Field Office. HARRIS stated that he believed the October issues of the other three Spicy magazines were delivered by the Globe Cartage Company or the Interstate Motor Freight System, Chicago, Illinois, and that they will probably maintain duplicate copies of the freight bills.

- PENDING -

(Detroit file 71-187)

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE BALTIMORE FIELD OFFICE

AT DOVER, DELAWARE, will check the State records for all information contained therein on Culture Publications, Incorporated, editorial offices 900 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware.

THE CHICAGO FIELD OFFICE

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, will at the Cuneo Press, Incorporated, ascertain whether or not this organization is engaged in printing the four magazines mentioned in the body of this report, and if so, ascertain from what source the rough copy is obtained.

Will further determine by what method the Cuneo Press ships and forwards copies to distributors throughout the country, and will secure a list of distributors to whom copies are forwarded.

Will secure from JOHN CUNEO, president of this corporation, a signed statement relative to his activity in connection with these magazines.

Will at the office of the Globe Cartage Company, 2299 South Lumber Street, secure copies of waybills for October issues of "SPICY WESTERN", "SPICY ADVENTURE", and "SPICY DETECTIVE" magazines shipped to Harris News Company, 2821 Brooklyn, Detroit, Michigan.

Will at the office of the Interstate Motor Freight System, which is purportedly part of the Interstate Trucking Company System, secure copies of waybills for the October issues of "SPICY WESTERN", "SPICY ADVENTURE", and "SPICY DETECTIVE" shipped to the Harris News Company, 2821 Brooklyn, Detroit, Michigan.

THE NEW YORK FIELD OFFICE

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK, will determine from MICHAEL ESTROW, president, Leader News Company, 114 East 47th Street, full information relative to the four magazines mentioned in the body of this report and will secure from him a signed statement containing complete background of his connection, past and present, with Mr. DONHEFFELT of the Independent News Company, 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City.

Will ascertain from MICHAEL ESTROW where these magazines are printed and by what means the rough copy is forwarded to the printer.

Will determine from files of the New York Field Division or attempt to ascertain through the office of the Postal Inspectors, New York

(Detroit file 71-187)

City, any information relative to the four above-mentioned magazines as to whether or not they have previously been banned or adjudged obscene by the Post Office Authorities or the Federal Court in the District of New York.

THE DETROIT FIELD OFFICE

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN, will thoroughly reinterview LYMAN L. HARRIS and SAMUEL HARRIS, securing from them signed statements relative to their business connection with the publishers of the four above-mentioned magazines and information as to agreements between themselves and the publishers of said magazines.

Will again discuss the facts of this case with Assistant United States Attorney JOSEPH C. MURPHY.

- PENDING -

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

April 8, 1936

WHL:MD
71-768

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: ^OCULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INCORPORATED;
^OTROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY;
Interstate Transportation of
Obscene Literature.

This case was called to the Bureau's attention in June, 1935 by Charles A. Brodek of the firm of Brodek and Eisner, 72 Wall Street, New York City, attorneys for Street and Smith Publishing Company. The complainant furnished copies of "Spicy Adventure Stories", "Spicy Detective Stories" and "Spicy Mystery Stories" which, in his opinion, were obscene and from his point of view were endangering the entire magazine trade because of their obscene character.

The copies of the magazines furnished by Mr. Brodek were transmitted to the Criminal Division for its opinion as to whether they could properly be regarded as obscene matter within the meaning of Section 245, Criminal Code. (This section provides penalty for transporting via express or common carrier in interstate commerce any obscene photograph, literature etc.). The opinion rendered by the Criminal Division was that these magazines were "obscene, lewd, and lascivious" within the meaning of the Statute and accordingly an investigation to ascertain the source of the magazines was instituted.

You will recall that recently John A. Brann has become associated with various publishing companies in New York and is now representing the N. and M. Publishing Company, Inc., Culture Publications, Inc., Detinuer Publishing Company, Independent News Company, Inc., and Harry D. Menefield. Brann, in a recent interview, verified the information previously obtained that the Culture Publications, Inc. publishes the "Spicy magazines" which are printed by the Quince Press, Chicago, Illinois and distributed by the Independent News Company of New York City.

RECORDED

INDEXED

APR 15 1936

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
APR 13 1936	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
TAMM	FILE

4-8-36

Copies of the magazines in question have been presented to the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York who, upon reviewing the magazines, stated that in his opinion the material contained in them is not of such nature as to insure successful prosecution, and accordingly the case has been closed.

For your information extreme difficulties are experienced in obtaining prosecution in this type of case in New York City. The Post Office Department has investigated a number of cases involving obscene literature, proceeding under Section 211 of the Criminal Code which pertains to the mailing of obscene books, photographs, et cetera. These investigations have in many cases involved the same publications as those investigated by the Bureau. Prosecutions in the cases conducted by the Post Office Department have been almost uniformly unsuccessful. Attempts have been made by the Post Office Department to prosecute the publishers of the magazines on the theory that the alleged startling photographs and articles advertised in the magazines are obscene and the advertised articles have been purchased in an effort to obtain convictions from that angle. This effort has likewise proved unsuccessful, the United States Attorneys and Courts being of the opinion that the advertised material is not obscene. The Post Office Department is now attempting to secure convictions on the theory that the alleged obscene material advertised in this type of magazine is not actually obscene and the companies placing it on the market are defrauding the public in that the articles are merely imitations of obscene material and not actually up to the representations made. No decision in this respect has been rendered.

For your further information the alleged stock obscene photographs and merchandise advertised in various shady magazines have been purchased in connection with Bureau investigations in the New York City and Washington, D. C. offices. The respective United States Attorneys have reviewed the articles and have refused prosecution, their opinion being that the matter is not obscene within the meaning of the Statute. These articles have been presented to the Department and an opinion has been rendered that the material does not warrant prosecution under the Statute pertaining to the Interstate Transportation of Obscene Literature.

Respectfully,



M. B. Lindquist.



REPORT MADE AT

New York, New York

FILE NO. 72-230

SLH

REPORT MADE AT New York, New York	DATE WHEN MADE 4-3-36	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3-26-36	REPORT MADE BY C. F. Lammie
TITLE CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INCORPORATED TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Assistant United States Attorney Martin, Southern District of New York, states he does not believe it advisable to continue efforts to secure samples of advertising offered, as successful prosecution based upon this advertising quite unlikely.

C.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent C. F. Lammie, dated at New York City, March 17, 1936.

DETAILS:

AT NEW YORK CITY:

Agent contacted Assistant United States Attorney Joseph Martin, Southern District of New York, relative to instant case and requested Mr. Martin's opinion as to whether or not he considered it advisable to continue efforts to secure samples of advertising offered in the Spioy group of magazines.

Mr. Martin stated that no further effort should be made to secure advertising offered in these magazines as it was his opinion, after giving this matter further consideration, that it was doubtful whether a successful prosecution could be had based upon any of the advertising matter offered for sale in these magazines even if agent were successful in purchasing same and found same to be obscene. Also,

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>R. A. Lammie</i>	RECORDED AND INDEXED APR 3 1936
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3-New York (1-U.S. Attorney - S.D.N.Y.)	BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE APR 15 1936

72-229

that the stories contained in these magazines are not of such a nature as to insure successful prosecution as obscene matter, as, in his opinion, they did not come within the statute prohibiting interstate shipment of obscene matter.

In view of this statement of Assistant United States Attorney Martin, this case is being considered closed by the New York Bureau Office.

6102-40

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK CITY

N.Y.

FILE NO.

71-889

22

REPORT MADE AT

NEW YORK CITY

DATE WHEN MADE

8-17-36

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE

5/13, 17/36

REPORT MADE BY

G. F. LAMON

TITLE

CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC.
TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

CHARACTER OF CASE

INTERESTED TRANSPORTATION OF
OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Attorney for Culture Publications, Inc.,
Trojan Publishing Company, Independent
Press Company, Inc. and Harry Denzfeld,
gives information concerning publishers
and DENZFELD.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent G. F. Lamon,
New York City, dated 3-2-36.

DETAILS:

At 28 Broadway, New York City, agent interviewed JOHN
BARAN. Mr. BARAN stated that he is the attorney for the Culture
Publications, Inc.; that ALFRED WYNN is President and Treasurer
and SARAH FRANKSTEIN is Secretary; that this company publishes

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND
FORWARDED:

G. F. Lamon

SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

71-768-45

RECORDED AND INDEXED

MAR 19 1936

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:

2-Bureau

3-New York (100-3, 100-5, 100-7, 100-8, 100-9, 100-10, 100-11, 100-12, 100-13, 100-14, 100-15, 100-16, 100-17, 100-18, 100-19, 100-20, 100-21, 100-22, 100-23, 100-24, 100-25, 100-26, 100-27, 100-28, 100-29, 100-30, 100-31, 100-32, 100-33, 100-34, 100-35, 100-36, 100-37, 100-38, 100-39, 100-40, 100-41, 100-42, 100-43, 100-44, 100-45, 100-46, 100-47, 100-48, 100-49, 100-50, 100-51, 100-52, 100-53, 100-54, 100-55, 100-56, 100-57, 100-58, 100-59, 100-60, 100-61, 100-62, 100-63, 100-64, 100-65, 100-66, 100-67, 100-68, 100-69, 100-70, 100-71, 100-72, 100-73, 100-74, 100-75, 100-76, 100-77, 100-78, 100-79, 100-80, 100-81, 100-82, 100-83, 100-84, 100-85, 100-86, 100-87, 100-88, 100-89, 100-90, 100-91, 100-92, 100-93, 100-94, 100-95, 100-96, 100-97, 100-98, 100-99, 100-100)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MAR 19 1936

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTED TO: [] FILE

"Spicy Detective", "Spicy Mystery" and "Spicy Adventure" that they are printed by the Guno Press, Chicago, Ill. and are distributed by the Independent News Company, New York City.

Mr. BRANN stated that he is also attorney for HARRY DOWNFELD, who is no longer connected in any way with any of the sex magazines due to some difficulties which he encountered with the New York City authorities several years ago and that now the only publishing engaged in by DOWNFELD is a movie magazine entitled "Real Screen Fun" and also several children's books.

Mr. BRANN stated that the various magazines in which he believes DOWNFELD was formerly interested but is not interested any longer, are the following:

The D & M Publishing Company, Inc., now owned by HERBERT M. SIEGEL, publishing Spicy Magazines, Pap Magazine, Gay Parisienne, La Parce and Snappy.

The first four of these magazines are printed by the Donny Press of 653 Eleventh Avenue, New York City and are distributed throughout the United States by the Independent News Company, New York City.

The last one, Snappy, is printed by the C. T. Dehring Printing Company of Louisville, Ky. and is also distributed by the Independent News Company.

The Spartan Publishing Company, of which LEO GREENWALD is President and ALFRED YAPPE is Treasurer, publishes Easy Money printed in New York City by the Neo Gravure Company, Eleventh Avenue at 25th Street, which is distributed throughout the country by the Independent News Company.

The Detainer Publishing Company, HERBERT M. SIEGEL, President and Secretary, publishes Bedtime Stories and Tattle Tales printed in New York City by the Donny Press and distributed throughout the country by the Independent News Company.

Mr. BRANN stated that DOWNFELD was also interested at one time in the Culture Publications, Inc., which print the above mentioned Spicy group of magazines.

In connection with the Trojan Publishing Company, Mr. BRANN stated that he had not yet secured full information for agent regarding that company, but would do so shortly.

To date no results have been obtained from efforts to secure samples of advertising offered by the Spicy group of magazines and the

71-259

U. S. Attorney, Southern District of New York, should again be contacted to determine whether or not, in his opinion, it is desirable to continue efforts to secure samples of this advertising.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE NEW YORK BUREAU OFFICE will again contact JOHN BRANN, 23 Broadway, New York City, to secure information regarding the Trojan Publishing Company.

Will also contact U. S. Attorney, Southern District of New York, and ascertain his opinion as to whether it is advisable to make further effort to secure advertising samples offered in instant magazines.

- PENDING -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK CITY**

U. S. FILE NO. **71-229**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK CITY	DATE WHEN MADE 2-1-36	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3/4, 8/36	REPORT MADE BY C. F. LAMMAN
TITLE CULTURN PUBLICATIONS, INC. CAROLAN PUBLISHING COMPANY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

NOTES & FACTS:

Irving Weinberger, capable to give much assistance in ascertaining source of back number magazines for sale in New York City. J. L. Van Nieuwenhuysen states he has been advised that Weinberger is one of the principal sources of supply for back number magazines of sex variety in New York City. John Brann, attorney for publishers in instant case, formerly employed with Department of Justice, will supply New York Office with full information regarding publishers.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent C. F. Lamman, New York City, 2-15-36.

DETAILS:

At 88 Hudson Street, New York City, agent interviewed **IRVING WEINBERGER**. He stated that he is a dealer in used magazines and that approximately 90% of his business is exporting these magazines to foreign countries; that he acquires these magazines from various publishing houses, which turn over to him all unsold magazines that they publish, and that he in turn sends these magazines out of the country; that he does not furnish any of the second-hand dealers in New York City with any magazines; that the source from which these second-hand stores procure these magazines is a mystery to him; that he does not export any of the sex magazines, and absolutely refused

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:  SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	71-768-44	RECORDED AND INDEXED MAR 11 1936 CHECKED BY MAR 11 1936
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: Bureau New York U. S. Atty. (NY)		

to have anything to do with that type of magazine. MANNHEIMER stated that it is his belief that the majority of these magazines are furnished to the second-hand dealers by a man by the name of CHARNO, who conducts a second-hand book store at 19 Ann Street, New York City, three brothers by the name of GRAFFIN, with offices somewhere in the vicinity of the Fox Theatre, Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, and P. Lewis & Company, 503 4th Avenue, New York City; also, MAX PADELL, who is mentioned in a previous report in instant case.

Agent interviewed Mr. J. F. VAN ZILE, 7 East 42nd Street, New York City. Mr. VAN ZILE stated that he is in the exporting business, exporting back numbers of magazines and unsold copies of current magazines to European countries; that he handles the National Geographic Magazine, various technical magazines and certain adventure story magazines; that he has no connection whatsoever with the so-called sex magazines, and the only information he has regarding the source of distribution in New York City is purely hearsay. It was noted by agent that Mr. VAN ZILE appears to be of an entirely different type from the other parties interviewed in connection with instant case, and seemed to be very straightforward and open in his answers and information. Mr. VAN ZILE advised that IRVING MANNHEIMER, mentioned above, is undoubtedly a large distributor of sex magazines to the second-hand dealers in New York City. This information was entirely unsolicited from Mr. VAN ZILE, as he did not know and was not advised by agent that agent had previously contacted IRVING MANNHEIMER. Mr. VAN ZILE stated that he had been advised by various sources, the reliability of which he could not vouch for, that MANNHEIMER was the backer of various sex magazines in New York City.

Questioned regarding HARRY DOWENFIELD, Mr. VAN ZILE stated that he understood that DOWENFIELD had severed all connections with the sex magazines with which he was formerly associated, and is now engaged solely in the publication of some children's stories, which are entirely harmless, as well as a movie magazine which is also a respectable publication.

Agent contacted Mr. JOHN BRAM, 25 Broadway, New York City, who is the attorney for DOWENFIELD, D & M Publications, Pettinor Publications, Trojan Publishing Company and Culture Publications, Inc. Mr. BRAM was formerly connected with the Department of Justice and is known personally to a number of agents in the New York Bureau Office. Mr. BRAM stated that he would get full information for agent regarding all of the publications which he represented, advising agent where these magazines' headquarters are, where they are printed and how they are distributed.

71-229

Mr. BRAUN stated that as soon as he obtained this information, he would contact agent.

In view of the fact that agent is to secure this information from Mr. BRAUN, the leads set out in reference report to contact ARTHUR LEMNIGER, 45 West 45th Street, JACOB LIGHTBLAU, Post Office Box 503, Station "H", New York City and ROBERT NELSON, 410 West 47th Street, New York City, will be disregarded.

It was ascertained at the office of OSCAR KARPOVITZ, 401 Broadway, New York City, that he has not yet returned from Florida, and arrangements were made whereby he would call agent upon his return. However, agent was contacted telephonically by Mr. GOODSTEIN, 12 West 40th Street, New York City, who stated that he was the attorney for OSCAR KARPOVITZ, and if agent desired any information concerning the conduct of KARPOVITZ' business, he, GOODSTEIN, would be glad to see agent and supply whatever information was desired.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

NEW YORK CITY OFFICE will keep in touch with Mr. JOHN BRAUN, attorney for publishers in instant case, and secure from him whatever information he has regarding these publishers.

Will contact Mr. GOODSTEIN, attorney for OSCAR KARPOVITZ, 12 West 40th Street, New York City, and secure information as to the source of the back number magazines that KARPOVITZ distributes to the burlesque houses in New York City.

- PENDING -

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Room 607,
U. S. Court House
Foley Square
New York, N. Y.

March 2, 1936

CTL:MM
71-229

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

RE: CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, Inc.
TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.
Interstate Transportation
of Obscene Literature.

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that it has been impossible to give this matter appropriate attention during the past week due to the number of emergency matters presently being handled by this office, which require expeditious attention.

It will be impossible to submit the usual weekly report in this matter for at least another week.

Very truly yours,

R. WHITLEY,
Special Agent in Charge.

RECORDED

71-768-43

MAR 4 1936

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Room 1403
370 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y.

AVT-F
71-229

February 21, 1936

*not in
file*

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Re: ^C CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC.
OTROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.
Interstate Transportation
of Obscene Literature.

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that owing to the number of emergency matters presently being handled by this office which require expeditious attention, it will be impossible to submit the usual weekly report in this matter for at least another week.

Very truly yours,

R. Whitley

R. Whitley, *per*
Special Agent in Charge.

RECORDED
FEB 27 1936

71-768-42

FILED

[Signature]

92

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK CITY** **N.Y.** File No. **71-224-1W**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK CITY	DATE WHEN MADE 3/15/36	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/11 & 15/36	REPORT MADE BY C. F. LAUMAN
TITLE CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Recorder County Clerk's Office, N.Y.C., checked for names of incorporators of the Modern Magazine, Inc., Modern Publications, Inc. and Modern Publications, Inc. Oscar Markovitz, NYC, not yet returned from Florida. Robert Nelson, NYC, has not yet secured information regarding Harry Bensonfeld.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent C. F. Lauman, New York City, dated 2/6/36.

DETAILS:

AT NEW YORK CITY.

At the office of the County Clerk, New York City, agent examined the incorporation papers and ascertained that the Modern Publications, Inc., which name appears on the door of room 636, 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City, was incorporated on December 23, 1931, by SOL G. LOWENBERG, 251 Fifth Avenue, JOSEPHINE B. REEDER, 12411 Washington Avenue, Rockaway Park, and SAMUEL J. KROSTOFF, 351 Fifth Avenue; that the incorporation papers were prepared by RUDOLPH KRAMER of 351 Fifth Avenue.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	71-768-41	RECORDED AND INDEXED FEB 17 1936 FEB 21 1936
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 2 - Bureau 2 - New York (U.S. Atty. Gen.)		RECEIVED FEB 21 1936 FBI NEW YORK

From the above, it is evident that the incorporators of Modern Publications, Inc. were merely employees of the attorney who prepared the incorporation papers. However, definite steps will be taken to ascertain whether or not this is so.

Examination of the incorporation papers of the Tilean Publications, Inc., reflect that this company was incorporated on April 20, 1934, by HERBERT SIEGEL, HARRY DOWENFELD, SAMUEL H. HUNTER, and IRVING DOWENFELD, all of 480 Lexington Avenue; that the attorneys who prepared the papers were Friedman & Friedman, 403 Lexington Avenue.

Examination of the incorporation papers of the Super Magazines, Inc. reflected this organization was incorporated on December 20, 1933 by HARRY DOWENFELD and IRVING DOWENFELD, 480 Lexington Avenue, and HERBERT N. SIEGEL, 2359 Crescent Street, Astoria, L. I. The firm of attorneys preparing the incorporation papers was Friedman & Friedman, 403 Lexington Avenue.

At 561 Broadway, agent endeavored to contact Mr. OSCAR MARKOVITZ, proprietor of the California Candy Company, in order to ascertain the source of his purchase of back number magazines of the pulp and art variety, which magazines were sold by him to various burlesque houses in New York City. As stated in reference report, Mr. MARKOVITZ was still in Florida, and agent was advised by a girl in Mr. MARKOVITZ' office, that he is expected to return about the 22nd of February, 1935.

At 410 West 47th Street, agent again contacted Mr. ROBERT NELSON in an effort to secure any information he may have concerning HARRY DOWENFELD, and was advised by Mr. Nelson that he has been unable up to the present time to secure this information, but believes he will be more successful a little later on, and suggested that agent again contact him.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS: NEW YORK OFFICE.

At NEW YORK CITY, will again contact and attempt to interview Mr. OSCAR MARKOVITZ sometime after February 22, 1935, and ascertain the source of his purchase of the back number magazines of the pulp and art variety.

Will again contact Mr. ROBERT NELSON of the Nelson Paper Company, 410 West 47th Street, New York City, regarding information he may have in reference to HARRY DOWENFELD.

71-229

Will contact ARTHUR LEWINER, 45 West 45th Street, New York City, and JOSEPH LICHTBLAU, Post Office Box #63, Station "H", New York City, relative to any information they may possess regarding the Culture Publications, Inc., and Trojan Publishing Company.

Will interview IRVING MANTLER, 99 Hudson Street, New York City, and an individual named VANZEL, 8 West 42nd Street, New York City, regarding the source from which back number magazines are purchased.

- PENDING -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Case No. 71-220
 THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK CITY

FILE NO. 71-220

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK CITY	DATE WHEN MADE 2/6/36	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/3 & 4 & 5/36	REPORT MADE BY C. F. LAMER
TITLE CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. GROGAN PUBLISHING COMPANY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: JACK WILSON, 287 W. 38th St., N.Y.C., unable to give any information regarding DONENFELD and nurse reported to have engaged in sexual conflicts at WILSON'S restaurant. Door on Room 532, 480 Lexington Ave., N.Y.C. shows Super Magazines, Inc., Tilden Publications, Inc. and Modern Publications, Inc. MAX PADRE, Bookazine Co., Brooklyn, N.Y. advises back number magazines purchased from Nelson Paper Co., IRVING MONTGOMERY and VANZILE, all of N.Y.C., that majority of magazines purchased are exported to foreign countries. ROBERT NELSON of Nelson Paper Company, N.Y.C. states majority of back number magazines purchased by his company from American News Company and exported to foreign countries. ARTHUR J. BUREN unable to furnish any additional information regarding Culture Publications, Inc. and Grogan Publishing Company. Information obtained to the effect that LAWRENCE CADMAN is the pen name of FRANK JAMER.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent C. F. Lamer, New York City, dated January 16, 1936.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: *R. Bentley*
 SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

71-768-40
 FEB 7 1936
 FEB 10 1936
 FEB 17 1936

2 - Bureau
 3 - New York City (R. A. T. S. U. N. Y.)

71-229

DETAILS:

Mr. GILZINGER, Superintendent of 175 Varior Street, New York City, was again contacted in an effort to ascertain the correct new address of Donney Press and Davidson Press. Mr. GILZINGER stated to Agent that the only additional information he had was that Donney Press now occupies space at 49th Street and Eleventh Avenue on the ninth floor, and that the address of Davidson Press previously given and shown in reference report, is the only information he has available concerning that Press.

At 257 West 38th Street, Agent interviewed JACK ALTMAN, proprietor of Jack Altman, Inc., a restaurant and bar, and questioned him concerning HARRY DONENFELD and the nurse whom DONENFELD is supposed to be keeping and who was supposed to have had several fights in ALTMAN'S restaurant.

ALTMAN stated to Agent that while he knew HARRY DONENFELD slightly, DONENFELD had not been in his restaurant at 38th Street more than two or three times in the last five years; that every time DONENFELD had been in the restaurant, he was with a different woman, and ALTMAN does not remember that DONENFELD was ever engaged in any fights in his restaurant with any woman he brought in with him. If DONENFELD was engaged in any fights with any woman in ALTMAN'S place of business, these battles were never reported to him. ALTMAN stated that DONENFELD has always behaved himself during the few times he has been in ALTMAN'S restaurant, and is consequently unable to furnish any information concerning DONENFELD or any of his affairs with numerous women.

At 661 Broadway, New York City, Agent attempted to interview OSCAR MARKOVITZ, proprietor of the California Candy Company, to ascertain the source of his purchase of back number magazines of the pulp and art variety.

Agent was advised by HARRY MARKOVITZ, brother of OSCAR MARKOVITZ, that OSCAR MARKOVITZ is presently in Miami, Florida, staying at the Carlton Hotel, and that he, HARRY MARKOVITZ, could not furnish any information regarding his brother's business affairs because his brother handled the purchasing of magazines sold in the various burlesque houses throughout New York personally. Mr. HARRY MARKOVITZ suggested that Agent return in about two weeks' time and interview his brother OSCAR, who would undoubtedly be very glad to give him full details concerning the purchase of the magazines in question.

At 480 Lexington Avenue, in Room 532, Agent observed that there appeared on the door the following names in the following order:

X Super Magazines, Inc.
X Tilsen Publications, Inc.
X Modern Publications, Inc.

It is from this office that BARRY DOWNFIELD is believed to conduct the business of the Culture Publications, Inc. and the Trojan Publishing Company. A lead is being set out for the New York Bureau Office to check the records of the County Clerk's Office in New York City to ascertain who the officers of the above mentioned concerns are.

At 439 Broadway, Brooklyn, New York, Agent interviewed MAX PADELL, proprietor of the Bookazine Company, dealers in used magazines, in an effort to ascertain the source of the purchase of back number magazines of the pulp variety.

Mr. PADELL stated that his business consists principally of buying up back number magazines of the pulp variety and exporting them to England, India and Australia; that about 5% of his business is the sale of these magazines to a few of the newsstands in New York City which handle such magazines. Mr. PADELL stated that he buys these magazines from IRVING MANHEIMER, of 99 Hudson Street, ROBERT NELSON of 410 West 47th Street, and a man by the name of VANCE, 8 West 42nd Street, all of New York City.

Mr. PADELL stated to Agent that there is very little market in this country for the resale of used magazines, due to the fact that various junk dealers are in the habit of collecting these magazines from junk piles, pressing them so that they may be put into good shape, and selling them for practically nothing to the used magazine dealers, particularly those in New York City.

Mr. PADELL requested that if Agent made inquiries at the above mentioned concerns from whom he said he bought these magazines, his name not be mentioned, as he believed it would be detrimental to his best interests if it became known that he advised Agent where he purchased these magazines.

At 410 West 47th Street, New York City, Agent interviewed Mr. ROBERT NELSON, President of the Nelson Paper Company

concerning information regarding the purchase of back number magazines and was advised by Mr. NELSON that in addition to being in the whole-sale paper business, he was engaged in the business of exporting to England, India and Australia, copies of back number magazines, 95% of which he purchased from the American News Company, New York City.

When questioned by Agent as to whether his company sold to any agencies in New York City, Mr. NELSON was very emphatic in his denials that he sold to dealers in New York City. Mr. NELSON stated to Agent that the only magazines his concern handled were strictly adventure, detective and romance magazines, and insisted that Agent accompany him on a tour of his plant and see for himself the type of magazines handled. It was noted by Agent on this inspection that there was no evidence of any of the sex magazines, which fact seemed to corroborate Mr. NELSON'S statements.

Mr. NELSON stated to Agent that there were two persons in New York City actively engaged in the publication and distribution of sex magazines and the furnishing of these magazines for resale to newsstands dealing in second-hand literature in New York City. These persons, as mentioned by Mr. NELSON, are FARRY DOWNFELD and JOHN F. EDWARDS, who is associated with HENRY MARCUS.

Mr. NELSON also stated to Agent that while DOWNFELD and his company are dealers and distributors of sex magazines, and occasionally use strongarm methods in the distribution of their magazines, they are reputed to always pay their bills promptly and to be in good standing in the trade, but that HENRY MARCUS and JOHN F. EDWARDS are a "couple of dead beats", and that he, NELSON, had been "stuck" with a bill against EDWARDS but that he has never been able to collect; that his attorney advised him it was not much use in trying to get a judgment against them due to the fact that whenever the concern they were operating at the moment became financially involved, they went into bankruptcy and then organized a new corporation. Mr. NELSON stated to Agent that he wished something could be done to curtail the practices engaged in by DOWNFELD and his associates and MARCUS and EDWARDS, and that if Agent would return in a few weeks and see him again, he would, in the meantime, endeavor to secure as much information as possible concerning these parties. However, Mr. NELSON stated that it is his opinion that it is almost impossible to do anything to prevent the continued distribution of these magazines, especially in the case of MARCUS and EDWARDS due to the fact, as previously stated, that whenever they became too heavily involved, they ceased doing business.

under one trade name and commenced under another; that if one magazine was suppressed, they would discontinue the publication of that one and bring it under another one; that quite frequently one magazine would have a new title every month. This, however, is not the case in connection with HARRY DONENFELD. Mr. NELSON stated that DONENFELD and his associates have used the name of "Spicy Magazine" for quite some time and there has never been any evidence that would indicate they have changed the names of their group of magazines.

In view of the fact that MAX PADELL requested Agent not to divulge the fact that he had stated to Agent that he purchased certain of his magazines from NELSON, Agent did not believe it desirable at this time to acquaint NELSON with that fact.

At 526 Hudson Street, New York City, Agent contacted the clerk in the office of ARTHUR J. BURNS, President of the American Fiction Guild who advised that Mr. BURNS maintained an office in the Knickerbocker Hotel at 120 West 45th Street, New York City, whereupon Agent contacted Mr. BURNS in his office at the above hotel for information relative to the Culture Publications, Inc. and the Trojan Publishing Company.

Mr. BURNS stated to Agent that he knows nothing regarding these two organizations except that they are apparently managed by HARRY DONENFELD and FRANK ARMER; that some of the authors connected with the American Fiction Guild have sold stories to the magazines published by DONENFELD and ARMER and have always been paid promptly for their stories; that the American Fiction Guild is only interested in the advancement of the writers and in the protection of these writers to see that they are paid promptly by the magazines to whom they furnish stories; that in view of the fact that DONENFELD and ARMER have always paid their bills promptly, there has been no occasion to contact them. Mr. BURNS stated, however, that FRANK ARMER has on several occasions asked him to write stories for the "Spicy Magazine" but that he does not care to write the kind of stories that they publish and has therefore refused.

In connection with an investigation being conducted by Agent on New York File #71-240 entitled: Unknown Subjects, Neudisel Publishing Company, Inc., et al, Agent interviewed a Mr. LURTON BLASSINGANE, 550 Riverside Drive, New York City, and during the course of the conversation Mr. BLASSINGANE, who is an author

71-229

and an author's agent, mentioned the Trojan Publishing Company and FRANK ARMER, and stated that FRANK ARMER uses the pen name of LAWRENCE CAIMAN.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

The NEW YORK OFFICE will interview OSCAR MARKOVITZ, 661 Broadway, New York City, proprietor of the California Candy Company, upon his return from Florida, and ascertain the source of his purchase of back number magazines of the pulp and art variety.

Will ascertain from the County Clerk's Office, New York City, the incorporators of the Super Magazines, Inc., Titan Publications, Inc. and Modern Publications, Inc.

Will again contact Mr. ROBERT NELSON of the Nelson Paper Company, 410 West 47th Street, New York City, regarding any information he may have concerning HARRY DOMENFELD.

Will contact ARTHUR LEMNINGER, 45 West 45th St., New York City, and JOSEPH LICHTBLAU, Post Office #63, Station "H", New York City, relative to any information they may possess regarding the Culture Publications, Inc. and Trojan Publishing Company.

Will interview IRVING MANNESEMER, 99 Edison St., New York City and an individual named VANZILE, 8 West 42nd Street, New York City, regarding the source from which back number magazines are purchased.

- PENDING -

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C. M. C. C. C. C. C.
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W. F. C. C. C. C. C.

W. F. C. C. C. C. C.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

MEL:LE
71-768
71-704

February 4, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC.;
TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.
INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION
OF OBSCENE LITERATURE.

The Bureau, under date of January 9, 1936, received from Special Agent in Charge B. E. Sackett of the Buffalo Office the original and a copy of a memorandum submitted by Special Agent John E. Lawler of that office relative to an interview had by him with [redacted] of Buffalo, concerning the above entitled case which is now under investigation by the Bureau.

According to Agent Lawler's memorandum, [redacted] stated that Harry Donenfeld, under investigation in connection with this matter, had called her to New York City, during October, 1935, relative to the publication of a magazine entitled "Easy Money". At this time, Mr. Donenfeld allegedly told [redacted] that a Department of Justice attorney was to be retained for a consideration to censor this publication in order that libel suits would not be forthcoming. [redacted] further informed Agent Lawler that Donenfeld stated an alleged representative of the Department of Justice by the name of Tracey had called at his office, and during the course of conversation informed him that several complaints had been received regarding the distribution and publication of pulp magazines; that he, Tracey, knew the magazines were trash; that anyone of such a mind could read them and in short there was "nothing to the case". Donenfeld also informed [redacted] that a few drinks administered to this alleged representative of the Department of Justice paved a smooth exit and the entire matter was fixed.

RECORDED & INDEXED

The contents of the alleged conversation between Donenfeld and Tracey were referred to Special Agent in Charge R. Whitley of the New York City Office, who called the matter to the attention of Special Agent T. H. Tracy of that office.

Mr. Nathan	
Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

71-768-398

Memorandum for
the Director

- 2 -

2/4/36

Agent Tracy submitted a memorandum under date of January 23, 1936, referring to a conversation had by him with Donesfeld, during November, 1935, in connection with the case entitled D & M PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC. - INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE. The investigative report covering this investigation reflects that Agent Tracy interviewed Donesfeld on November 9, 1935, at which time Donesfeld stated he had sold his interest in certain magazines to the D & M Publishing Company, Inc., on May 8, 1934, and that he did not then own an interest in that company. He stated further that he did not know the individuals who operated the D & M Publishing Company, Inc., and was of the opinion that it had recently changed hands. Agent Tracy submitted the facts in the case to the United States Attorney, who declined prosecution.

In the memorandum submitted by Agent Tracy on January 23rd, he advised that at the time of the interview, Donesfeld had had several drinks and was visibly nervous and agitated. Following the interview, Donesfeld accompanied Agent Tracy to the elevator and to the ground floor and walked to the entrance of the bar located in the building. He invited Tracy to have a drink with him, which Tracy states he refused.

Several days later, Agent Tracy was approached by Special Agent J. J. Keating, who told him that he had recently talked with one J. S. Leibowitz. Leibowitz stated that he was an accountant and that an uncle of his was interested in the D & M Publishing Company. Leibowitz also stated that he was accountant for this firm and that the firm did not desire to become involved in any way with the United States Government as a result of publishing alleged obscene matter. Agent Tracy subsequently was introduced to Leibowitz. They had a short conversation covering the matter mentioned by Agent Keating. Agent Tracy states that if he made any statement to Leibowitz, it was along the line that if persons are continually treading on thin ice, they should expect to break through at some time or other.

Memorandum for
the Director

- 3 -

2/4/36

At a subsequent date, John A. Brann called at the New York City Office and informed Agents Tracy and Keating that he was offered a contract with the D & M publishers, and it is Agent Tracy's understanding that he has accepted this contract. This relates to the statement appearing in the memorandum of Agent Lawlor to the effect Dohenfeld had stated that a Department of Justice attorney was being retained to censor the publication in order that libel suits would not be instituted.

In view of the information contained in the memorandum of Agent Tracy, it appears that no further investigation is necessary with respect to this matter.

Respectfully,

M. B. Lindquist
M. B. Lindquist

EO

J. Edgar Hoover
Director

ENT:GFW

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 31, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

81-768-39X
See 7-1-36

You will recall, no doubt, my informing you that recently JOHN A. BRANN came into my office and stated that he had obtained a fine position with a publishing firm in the capacity of counsel. During December, 1935, in an investigation being conducted by the Bureau into the Culture Publications, Incorporated, and the Trojan Publishing Company, involving the interstate transportation of obscene literature, a statement was attributed to Harry Donsenfeld, ostensible head of the publishing company, that "a Department of Justice Attorney was to be retained for a consideration to censure the publication in order that libel suits would not be forthcoming".

Information has now been obtained that Brann is employed by the Culture Publications, Incorporated.

Respectfully,



E. A. TAMM.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

71-768-39X

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Room 1403
370 Lexington Avenue
New York, N. Y.

WHEC

January 28, 1936.

~~Personal and Confidential~~

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th St., N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Re: Culture Publications, Inc.,
Trojan Publishing Company,
Interstate Transportation of Obscene
Literature.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated January 16,
1936, enclosing copy of a memorandum prepared by Special Agent
John E. Lawler of the Buffalo Office regarding an interview
had by him with [redacted] concerning the above captioned
case.

b7D

I am enclosing herewith for the Bureau's information
copies of memorandum dated January 23, 1936, prepared by Special
Agent T. I. Tracy, regarding his interview with Harry Donenfeld,
relative to this matter. It appears that a further interview
with Donenfeld relative to his allegations to [redacted] might
be advisable. However, this action is not being taken pending
Bureau instructions.

Very truly yours,

R. WHITLEY

Special Agent in Charge

enc: 2

RECORDED

INDEXED

71-768-392

See 67-411574

Room 1402
375 Lexington Avenue
New York, N. Y.

January 23, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated January 16, 1936 in Bureau file #71-768, which transmitted a copy of a communication from Special Agent John E. Lawler of the Buffalo Office, dated December 7, 1935. Attached hereto will be found the Bureau letter together with the Buffalo communication referred to.

Reference is made to the file in the matter of the D & A Publishing Co., Inc., Interstate Transportation of Obscene Matter, New York file #71-220; by reference to that file you will note that I interviewed HARRY DOWENFELD, owner of the Maxwell Publishing Co., 414 West 47th Street, New York City on November 5, 1935. The conversation I had with DOWENFELD is set forth in the report.

At the time I interviewed DOWENFELD, he had had two or three drinks, and although not under the influence of the same, was visibly nervous and agitated. Following the interview which took about fifteen minutes, he accompanied me to the elevator. He then went down on the elevator with me, all the time talking and considerably agitated. At the ground floor, he walked to the entrance of a bar and grill located in that building, and invited me in to have a drink with him, but I refused and went to the office of the U. S. Attorney, and presented the case to that office and closed same.

A day or so later, Special Agent J. J. Keating approached me and asked me about the D & A Publishing Co., Inc. case. I told him I had completed the investigation and had closed the case. He said that there was then in the office a man by the name of J. S. Leibowitz. He said that LEIBOWITZ was an accountant who was ultra-reliable and strictly for the Government, and that LEIBOWITZ worked with him and other agents of this office in connection with the

71-768-37X

Memorandum SAC

January 23, 1936

violations and was instrumental in breaking a number of cases under the HRA penal sections. He said that an uncle of LEIBOWITZ (not DOWNSFIELD) has a lot of money tied up in the D & A Publishing Co., Inc., and that he (LEIBOWITZ) is the accountant for the firm; that his uncle is a man of repute and responsibility, and neither of them want to become involved in any way with the U. S. Government in connection with the publication of allegedly obscene matter.

I told Agent Keating that this particular case was closed, and I was introduced to LEIBOWITZ, but I don't recall having any conversation with him, except that he told me the same things that Agent Keating told me, and if I made any statement to him, it was along the line that if persons are continually treading on this toe, they should expect to break through at some time or other.

Some few days later, JOHN A. BRANN came to the office and informed Agent Keating, myself, and a number of others, that he was offered a contract with these publishers, and I understand that he accepted the same. This relates to the statement appearing in the memorandum of Leary, to the effect that DOWNSFIELD has stated a Department of Justice attorney was being retained to censor the publication in order that libel suits would not be instituted.

/s/ T. H. TRACY,
Special Agent

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Room 1403

370 Lexington Avenue
New York City

AVT:RP
71-229

January 31, 1936

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Pennsylvania Ave. at 9th St., N.W.
Washington, D. C.

RE: CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC.
OTROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY
Interstate Transportation
of Obscene Literature

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that it has been impossible to give this matter appropriate attention during the current week, in view of which the usual weekly report will not be submitted this week. It is expected, however, that this case will receive attention within the next few days and a report will be submitted prior to the end of next week.

Very truly yours,

H. Whitley

H. WHITLEY
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED

71-768-39

FEB 3 1936

Whitley

Federal Bureau of Investigation

AVT:NB
71-229

U. S. Department of Justice
Room 1103
370 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y.

January 24, 1936

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Pennsylvania Ave. at 9th St., N.W.
Washington, D. C.

RE: CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC.
TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY
INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION
OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that owing to the number of emergency matters presently being handled by this office which require expeditious attention, it will be impossible to submit the usual weekly report in this matter for at least another week.

Very truly yours,

R. Whitley

R. WHITLEY,
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED

71-768-28

JAN 27 1936

200

sent

71-768

January 16, 1936.

RECORDED

71-768-37

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. B. Shitley,
Special Agent in Charge,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
370 Lexington Avenue, Room 1403,
New York, New York.

Re: Culture Publications, Inc.,
Trojan Publishing Company,
Interstate Transportation of Obscene
Literature.

Dear Sir:

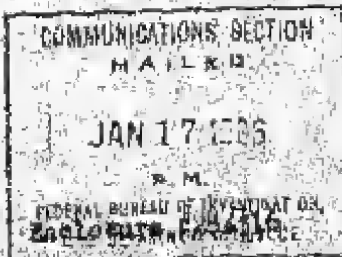
I am enclosing herewith a copy of a memorandum prepared by Special Agent John E. Lawler of the Buffalo Bureau Office regarding an interview had by him with [redacted] concerning the above captioned matter.

You will note that [redacted] referred to a conversation had with Harry Donsenfeld, who is under investigation in connection with this matter, in which Donsenfeld informed that he had received a call from a representative of the Department of Justice named "Tracy". The substance of the alleged conversation between Donsenfeld and "Tracy" is set out in the copy of Agent Lawler's memorandum enclosed herewith.

A review of the Bureau file in this case reveals that Harry Donsenfeld has not been interviewed by any Agents of the Bureau, and it appears that Special Agent T. K. Tracy of your office has not conducted any investigation in this matter. However, the Bureau desires that you determine whether Agent Tracy has discussed the matter with Donsenfeld and if he has not, that as appropriate inquiry be made to ascertain whether Donsenfeld has been contacted by any other Agents assigned to your office.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.



Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

P. O. Box #64
Buffalo, N.Y.

Jan. 9, 1936

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Pennsylvania Ave. at 9th St., E. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

While going through the personnel files at this office last night I found in the compartment within the safe, containing such personnel files, a memorandum to the Agent in Charge dated December 7, 1935 from Special Agent John E. Lawler, who is presently assigned to this office.

The original and one copy of such memorandum, which is self-explanatory, is being enclosed herewith for your information.

Special Agent G. V. Doherty, in explaining to me his reasons for not sending the memorandum to you as soon as same was submitted to him, stated that this was the first matter of its kind he ever experienced and that he wanted to make sure that such memorandum came directly to your attention, therefore he held this memorandum in the office expecting to personally hand same to the first Inspector calling at Buffalo to examine applicants, for transmittal directly to you.

In connection with [redacted] mentioned in the memorandum, Agent Doherty advises me, and the file reflects, that this woman has in the past furnished reliable information to this office with respect to the investigation of various interstate transportation of obscene literature cases. b7D

I have talked to Special Agent Lawler about this matter and he advises that he has no information other than that which is given in his memorandum.

RECORDED

Very truly yours,

JAN 24 1936

A. B. Brackett
A. B. BRACKETT
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED
air Mail Registered
Enc. 13

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

b7D

December 7, 1935.

Memorandum to Special Agent in Charge:

RE: Culture Publications, Inc.,
Trojan Publishing Company,
Interstate Transportation of Obscene
Literature.
Buffalo File No. 71-11.

On December 6, 1935, [redacted]

[redacted] who is furnishing confidential information in the above entitled case was interviewed by the writer. [redacted] advised the writer that Harry Donsenfeld, who is under investigation in connection with above matter, by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, New York Office, Office of Origin, called her [redacted] to New York City on October 2, 1935, relative to the publication of a new magazine "Easy Money". "Easy Money" is intended to depict a number of rackets in New York City and show the method in which a number of prominent New York people obtained their money. Mr. Donsenfeld told [redacted] that a Department of Justice Attorney was to be retained for a consideration to censure this publication in order that libel suits would not be forthcoming.

[redacted] informed the writer that Mr. Donsenfeld stated to her that an alleged Representative of the Department of Justice, by the name of Tracey, had called at his office and stated in substance the following:

"That several complaints had been received regarding the distribution and publication of the pulp magazines; that he (Tracey) knew the magazines were trash; that anyone of such a mind could read them and in short there was nothing to the case." Mr. Donsenfeld further stated to [redacted] that a few drinks administered to this alleged Representative of the Department of Justice paved a smooth exit and the entire matter was fixed.

[redacted] scoffed at the importance which the writer was placing upon the investigation. However, [redacted] did inform the writer that Mr. Donsenfeld had stated this in a bragging manner to impress her that he could fix anything. In view of this [redacted] did not know how much credence could be placed in Donsenfeld's statement.

71-768-37

- 2 -

[redacted] advised that Donenfeld was the type whose tongue loosened considerably, when He (Donenfeld) was under the influence of a few drinks. [redacted] was of the opinion that "there may have been a method in the madness of this alleged Representative of the Department of Justice.

A review of the Buffalo file in the above entitled case does not indicate that any work was performed by a Mr. Tracey. However, it may be stated that the Buffalo Bureau Office does have a complete file of instant case.

The matter is being set out under the personal and confidential cover, not only as a protection for the name and reputation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but of the Agents as well.

The writer further wishes to state that [redacted] is one who has furnished confidential information and the writer is desirous that the confidence which has been reposed in him will not be violated.

Respectfully,

John E. Lawler
John E. Lawler,
Special Agent.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK CITY

N. Y.

FILE NO. 91-768-36

OK

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK CITY	DATE WHEN MADE 1/13/36	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/14/36	REPORT MADE BY C. F. LANZAN
TITLE CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Donay Press, 175 Varick St., NYC, now moving to 41th Ave. and 45th St.; apparently operated by Mike Donsenfeld, possibly brother of Harry Donsenfeld; Building Superintendent at 175 Varick St. states Donay Press closely associated with Davidson Press, suspected of printing obscene pictures, and Charlton Bindery, believed to be concern binding obscene pictures and magazines. Copies of magazines bound by Charlton Bindery and believed to have been printed by Donay Press and Davidson Press furnished to agent by superintendent, President, Federal News Co., states Federal News Co. no longer distributes magazines carrying stories in any way obscene; also unable to furnish much information regarding Independent News Co.

- P -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent J. E. Lawler, Buffalo, N. Y., 12/16/35.
Report of Special Agent U. F. Lanzan, New York City, 1/11/36.
Report of Special Agent L. C. Henley, Denver, Colo., 12/5/35.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND
FORWARDED

R. M. Little

SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

91-768-36

RECORDED AND INDEXED

JAN 18 1936

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO

2 BUREAU
3 NEW YORK (100-47387-1)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JAN 18 AM

JAN 20 1936

MAILED

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED

DETAILS: AT NEW YORK CITY

At 175 Varick Street, New York City, agent examined the directory in the lobby of the building and noted the name of DONNEY PRESS, located on the fifth floor, as the likeliest printing establishment in this building which might be connected with the name HARRY DONNENFELD. Agent based his belief upon the similarity of names. In order to be certain, agent located the building superintendent, a Mr. GILZINGER, with offices at 170 Varick Street, who stated to agent that he is the superintendent for a number of buildings on Varick Street, all of which are owned by the Trinity Church.

After close observation, agent divulged his identity to Mr. GILZINGER and requested information as to whether any of the small printing establishments at 175 Varick Street had recently moved out of that building. Mr. GILZINGER stated that the Donney Press on the 5th floor was in the process of moving and that he believed they were moving to a building at 45th Street and 11th Avenue but that he did not know the exact address; also that the Davidson Press, located on the 7th floor, formerly owned by Mr. DAVIDSON, had been sold to a Mr. LOMASHIN, who had changed the name to the Georgian Press, but that he, Mr. GILZINGER, had been advised that DAVIDSON had reestablished himself at a location directly opposite the New York Daily Mirror Building on East 45th Street.

When agent inquired of Mr. GILZINGER as to who the proprietors of the Donney Press were, he stated that the main office of the Donney Press was located on 5th Avenue and that he had the name of a member of the firm who was to be called in case of an emergency during the night. Examination of Mr. GILZINGER'S records reflects this man's name to be MIKE DONNENFELD, residing at 1123 Avenue A, Brooklyn, N. Y., Apartment 40, telephone Midwood 8-9736. This is undoubtedly another name of HARRY DONNENFELD, or it may be that of a relative of HARRY DONNENFELD. Until it is definitely determined who MIKE DONNENFELD is, no change will be made in the title of this report.

Mr. GILZINGER'S records further reflect that JOSEPH J. ROMERO was the foreman for Davidson Press; that he resided at 230 Mott Street, Apartment 5, New York City; that his telephone number is Drydock 4-0027; that JOSEPH J. ROMERO had also moved out with Mr. DAVIDSON and he, Mr. GILZINGER, understood that ROMERO was still

associated with DAVIDSON at DAVIDSON'S new address. Mr. GILZINGER stated that he did not as yet have any name or telephone number to call in case of emergency for Mr. LOWASKIN.

When questioned by agent regarding the type of printing done by the Donney Press and the Davidson Press, Mr. GILZINGER stated that it was his opinion that both of these concerns were engaged in printing low magazines and pictures, and that he was quite certain they were both closely allied with the Charlton Bindery located in the same building; that his reasons for the above statements are based upon the fact that some time ago he discovered in the possession of one of his employees some obscene photographs and when he, GILZINGER, asked his employee where he got them the employee stated they were printed by the Davidson Press and further stated that it was generally known by the building employees that the Davidson Press and possibly the Donney Press were printing such matter; that the Davidson Press, before they moved, had on numerous occasions for a period of several days locked their doors and allowed no one near at any time of the day or night, and it was generally believed that during this period they were printing these obscene photographs. Mr. GILZINGER stated that his employees also told him that they were certain the Donney Press was printing obscene magazines and pictures, and pictures printed by the Donney Press and the Davidson Press were sent upstairs to the 9th floor and bound by the Charlton Bindery. Mr. GILZINGER stated that his reason for believing that the Charlton Bindery was binding obscene matter printed by the Donney Press and the Davidson Press was also based upon the statements made by his employees to him to the effect that when it was learned in the building that the Donney Press and the Davidson Press were moving out, it certainly would be a big help to the hauling trade because of the fact that there was so much printed matter which had been completed by these two printing concerns that was being hauled upstairs to the Charlton Bindery and that now the printing companies were moving out it would be necessary to haul this printed matter by truck from uptown so that the Charlton Company could bind it.

Mr. GILZINGER furnished agent with copies of five magazines which he had picked up in the Charlton Bindery. These magazines are as follows:

January, 1936 issue of "Gay Parisienne."
 March, 1936 issue of "Tattle Tales".
 February, 1936 issue of "Spicy Stories".
 February, 1936 issue of "La Parée".
 March, 1936 issue of "Bedtime Stories".

Mr. GILZINGER further stated that he is certain these magazines were printed by the Donney Press and the Davidson Press, as previously stated; also that the covers for these magazines are designed by a young woman by the name of J. LIPFITT or G. FEARLIMAN; that this young woman was formerly associated with the Davidson Press and has remained with the Georgian Press. Mr. GILZINGER stated that she had been pointed out to him one day by one of his employees at 175 Varick Street as being the young woman who designed the covers for the magazines bound by the Charlton Bindery.

Agent inquired of Mr. GILZINGER whether or not he had ever observed what method was used for carrying away magazines bound by the Charlton Bindery. He advised agent that he had observed on numerous occasions large trucks carrying away all of this material from the Charlton Bindery. He was of the opinion that it was being distributed to dealers throughout the country by truck. However, he had never noticed the name of the trucking concern hauling these magazines away. Upon the request of agent, he promised to secure the name of this concern and advise agent at a later date. Mr. GILZINGER also promised to secure for agent the new addresses of the Donney Press and the Davidson Press.

Mr. GILZINGER further stated that his records show that MAURICE MARCOLIS of 1870 Walton Avenue, Bronx, N. Y., Ludlow 7-0809, is either the owner or manager of the Charlton Bindery; that from his, GILZINGER'S, personal observation, MARCOLIS appears to be a very surly type of person, very secretive in his actions, and does not like to have anyone, even the building employees, snooping around the Bindery at any time.

At 330 West 42nd Street, New York City, agent interviewed Mr. J. J. HARVEY, President of the Federal News Company, under the pretext that this Bureau desired information relative to reports that certain news agencies in New York City were engaged in racketeering activities regarding magazine distributions. Mr. HARVEY stated to agent that it had been reported to him on several occasions that the

71-229

Independent News Company, New York City, had threatened several dealers with dire results if they did not stop handling magazines distributed by rival news agencies, but that nothing had ever come of it. He further stated that PAUL SAMPLINER, President of the Independent News Company, was a casual friend of his and that, from personal observation, he did not believe that Mr. SAMPLINER would stoop to such practices. It is Mr. HARVEY's belief that some other member of the firm or some employee in a responsible position was the author of these threats.

Mr. HARVEY was rather reluctant to disclose, or also he did not know, the names of the magazines distributed by the Independent News Company. He stated as his reason for not knowing that in the majority of cases news distributors never see the magazines that are distributed unless they receive some adverse report from their dealers regarding these magazines and that the whole arrangement is purely paper transaction.

When questioned regarding the type of magazines that the Federal News Company distributed, Mr. HARVEY pointed with pride to the fact that the magazines the Federal News Company is now distributing are good, clean, wholesome magazines; that at one time they had an agency for a certain group of magazines, about five or seven in number, which they had had to discontinue due to the fact that the advertising contained in these magazines, as well as the stories, was too objectionable, and that they did not wish to have the name of the Federal News Company associated with these magazines. Therefore, they discontinued the distribution of them. However, agent noted that Mr. HARVEY was unwilling to mention the names of any of the magazines that the Federal News Company is now distributing and, as agent was unwilling to ask him pointblank what some of these magazines were, further discussion along this line was dropped.

The magazines mentioned in instant report are being forwarded, together with copies of other magazines, to the Bureau under separate cover, for an opinion as to the obscene nature of their contents, in connection with the case entitled "Unknown Subjects, Interstate Transportation of Obscene Literature", New York file #71-241.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS: NEW YORK OFFICE.

At NEW YORK CITY, will again contact Mr. GILZINGER, Superintendent of 175 Varick Street, at his office at 170 Varick Street, to secure the name of the trucking company hauling the magazines from the Charlton Binery, and also the new addresses of the Pouney Press and the Davidson Press.

71-322

Will interview JACK ALTMAN, proprietor of ALTMAN's GRILL, 88th Street between 7th and 8th Avenues, to secure name of nurse with whom DOWNWELL has had many conflicts. It will be noted JACK ALTMAN is a known underworld character and is reported to have served a term at Sing Sing Prison.

Will interview OSCAR MARKOVITZ, 651 Broadway, California Candy Company, and ascertain the source of his purchase of back numbers of magazines of the pulp variety, particularly the Art Magazine.

Will ascertain the name of the publishers listed on door #523 at 480 Lexington Avenue.

Will determine the source of the purchase of back numbered magazines of these pulp varieties from the NELSON PAPER CO., West 49th Street, and will interview Mr. FIDELL at the BOOKAZINE, address not known, telephone number Pulaski 5-4659, ascertaining the same information as set out above.

Will contact ARTHUR LEWIS, 45 West 45th Street; JOSEPH LICHTSLAU, Post Office, Box 60, Station R; ARTHUR J. BURNS, President, American Fiction Guild, 526 Hudson Street, relative to any information regarding the Culture Publications, Incorporated, and the Trojan Publishing Company. It is further suggested that efforts be made to determine whether or not LAWRENCE CADMAN and FRANK ARMER are identical.

- PENDING -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, N.Y.**

FILE NO. **715.11** ACP

REPORT MADE AT BUFFALO, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 1/10/36	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/13/36	REPORT MADE BY J. E. LAWLER
TITLE CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

No additional information developed from the Vice Squad or the Children's Aid Society, Buffalo, New York, N.Y.C.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent J. E. Lawler, Buffalo, New York, dated 12/10/35.

DETAILS: At Buffalo, New York

Detective John F. Mahoney, Vice Squad, 10 Delaware Avenue, stated upon interview that Lieutenant Vincent Connors, in charge of Vice Squad, had been sick for some time and was not expected to report for duty within the near future. Mr. Mahoney further stated that he was conversant with the activities of the Vice Squad inasmuch as he was an assistant of Mr. Connors.

Detective Mahoney stated that the Vice Squad had developed no information as to the source of the publication of obscene literature, nor the transportation of same; that they had attempted to keep the same off the streets, off of display and away from the children in the city of Buffalo, N.Y. Mr. Mahoney suggested that the writer interview Mr. Roy Woodbury, Children's Protective Aid Society, 510 Root Building, inasmuch as he was extremely interested in the matter and would supply any additional information which agent might desire.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 71-968-135 JAN 17 1936 JAN 20 1936 JAN 17 A.M.	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 4 - Bureau 3 - New York (1 U.S.A. New York) 1 - Buffalo <i>[Handwritten notes]</i>		

91-11

Mr. Roy Woodbury of the Children's Aid Society was interviewed in the Buffalo Bureau office and he could add no additional facts which would be of interest in the investigation of instant case. He stated that his main object was to keep the obscene literature out of the hands of the children of Buffalo; that he had obtained two obscene books from a truck driver from Pennsylvania; that these books were in such condition that he believed they were personal belongings of the truck driver and there was no indication that he (truck driver) was selling them.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK CITY**

FILE NO. **71-108 PVH**

REPORT MADE AT Philadelphia, Pa.	DATE WHEN MADE 1-13-36	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12-30-35	REPORT MADE BY W. E. Board
TITLE CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. TORJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE UNIT OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Corporations Fiscal Co., Wilmington, Delaware, handled incorporation proceedings for Culture Publications, Inc., at the request of Frank Arner, 125 East 48th Street, New York City. Wilmington address maintained in compliance with Delaware State laws. Delaware State laws allow dummy incorporators. Del-Mar News Agency, Wilmington, Delaware, handles magazines of the Culture Publications, Inc.

-RUC-

REFERENCES: Report of Special Agent C. F. Lanza, dated 10-22-35 at New York City.

DETAILS: AT WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Mr. D. E. Hilliard, President of the Corporations Fiscal Co., 900 Market Street, advised that his company was requested by Mr. Frank Arner, 125 East 48th Street, New York City, to start incorporation proceedings for the Culture Publications, Inc., on January 30, 1935. The Corporations Fiscal Co., acts in the capacity of resident agent for the Culture Publications, Inc., as required by the Delaware State laws. R. W. Kennedy, Jr., E. P. Crawford and H. C. Brown, who at that time were connected with the Corporations Fiscal Co., in the capacity of stenographic help, served in the capacity of dummy incorporators, which act is allowed under the existing laws of the State. Mr. Hilliard advised that they have no connection with the Culture Publications, Inc., and further, that while employed by the Corporations Fiscal Co., that had acted in a like capacity on many occasions.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>R. E. Vetter</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">71-768-34</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">JAN 14 1936</div> <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">JAN 15 1936</div>
1 Bureau 1 New York 1 U. S. Atty. Gen. 1 Philadelphia		

Mr. Willard stated that large quantities of mail come to his office addressed to the Culture Publications, Inc., which mail he forwards to 125 East 40th Street, New York City. Frank Loner is the President and Treasurer of the Culture Publications, Inc., and Lester Lantz is Vice President and Secretary.

Harry M. Liddell, newsdealer at 843 Market Street, advised that he sold "Spicy Adventure", "Spicy Detective" and "Spicy Mystery" magazines and that he purchased same through the Del-Mars News Agency at 8th and Shipley Streets. Agent purchased one copy each of the January issue and same will be transmitted under separate cover to the New York Office.

William Gurney, operator at the George Vernon Newsstand, 8th and Market Streets, stated that the "Spicy" publications were also sold at that stand, that same were obtained from the Del-Mars Agency.

E. L. Budner, proprietor of the Del-Mars News Agency, 8th and Shipley Streets, asserts he is the Agent for the "Spicy" publications and that he receives same through the Independent News Company, Inc., 490 Lexington Avenue, New York City. The magazines are trucked into Budner's place, but Budner was evasive to questioning as to the name of the trucking company. However, Agent noticed a partly opened package of the "Spicy" series, wrapped in plain brown paper, and same bore the stamp of Curran Press, Chicago, Illinois.

Clayton M. Liddell, news dealer at 109 Froyl Street, advised that Harry M. Liddell, the street operator at 843 Market Street, is his father. Liddell stated that he had had a contract with the Independent News Company, 490 Lexington Avenue, New York City, to handle the "Spicy" publications in the vicinity of Wilmington, Delaware. A letter dated October 30, 1935 from the Independent News Company was exhibited to Agent. This letter took the distributorship away from Liddell with the November, 1935 issue, stating that a larger volume of business was expected. Another letter from the same company, dated November 4th, 1935 in answer to Liddell's inquiry of October 31, 1935, stated that the Del-Mars Agency had been granted the distributorship. Liddell further advised that E. L. Budner was under indictment in Baltimore, Maryland in the prosecution of the "Baltimore Barbitate", and it was Liddell's opinion that Budner at that time received a two year probation. Liddell states that there is some connection between Budner and J. J. Ottenation, District News Company 809 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. Liddell states that Budner had a \$5000 a year job in either Baltimore or Washington, which he gave up to take over the Del-Mars Agency in Wilmington, Delaware, and that since coming to Wilmington, he has flooded the town with the "Spicy" series as well as other magazines of a similar nature.

AT PHILADELPHIA

Agent examined the magazine display and made inquiries at numerous news stands in Philadelphia, without revealing identity or purpose of Agent, but the "Spicy" series of magazines did not appear in the display of any of the stands visited and those persons to whom inquiries were directed denied that they were at the present time handling the "Spicy" series.

Inasmuch as further investigation is not required of the Philadelphia Office at this time, this case is being

RETURNED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

REPORT ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK, N.Y.

FILE NO. 91-222

208

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
NEW YORK CITY	1/11/36	1/11/36	G.E. LAMBERT
TITLE CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. TROVAN PUBLISHING COMPANY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Letters addressed to two advertisers under pretext, containing the necessary money, requesting pictures of nude women and "Guppy Stories" in an effort to determine whether or not such stories and pictures can be used as a basis of prosecution against publishers of magazines to sustain cases for advertising indecent and obscene literature.

REFERENCE:

Reports of Special Agent G.E. Lambert, New York City, dated 11/20/35 and 12/7/35; report of Special Agent L.G. Reilly, Denver, Colorado, dated 12/5/35; report of Special Agent J.R. Lewis, Buffalo, N.Y., dated 12/16/35; and report of Special Agent T.B. McHenry, Milwaukee, Wis., dated 12/4/35.

DETAILS:

In an effort to secure information and samples of advertising literature and photographs as advertised in the "Hoxly" group of magazines, in accordance with the suggestion made by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph R. Marsh, Southern District of New York, and as set

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND
FORWARDED:

Whitely

SPECIAL AGENT

7-768-33

RECORDED AND INDEXED

JAN 14 1936

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ENCL. 1

JAN 14 AM

JAN 15 1936

100-2200

CHIEF

NEW YORK

100-2200 (U.S. Atty., EDNY - 1)

RECEIVED

FILE

NY File 71-829

forth in the reference report of Agent Lamm dated November 30, 1935. Agent under pretext wrote to two of the advertisers, who advertise pictures of nude women and "Shappy Stories," and who are believed to be the most likely to have for sale literature that really is obscene. Agent enclosed with said letters the necessary money for the purchase of these pictures and stories. These letters were written to said advertisers with the view in mind of obtaining samples of the nude pictures and stories, and if upon receipt of same they are found to be obscene, same will be used as a basis for prosecuting the publishers of "spicy" group of magazines.

The advertisers to whom agent wrote, are LA ROMA, 4 West 16th Street, Apartment C-18, New York City, and MME. C. CHRESTA, Villa Modern, Montarouge (Seine), France.

Upon receipt of these pictures and stories, agent will present them to the United States Attorney, Southern District of New York, for his opinion.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

CHICAGO OFFICE:

Will complete the lead requested by the Milwaukee Office in the report of Special Agent T.G. Molvin, dated 12/4/35.

BUFFALO OFFICE:

Will complete undeveloped lead set forth in the report of Special Agent J.M. Lawler, dated Buffalo, N.Y., 12/16/35.

NEW YORK CITY OFFICE:

Will complete undeveloped leads set forth in reports of Special Agent C.E. Lamm, New York City, dated 11/30/35 and 12/7/35, Special Agent L.C. Healey, Denver, Colo., dated 12/6/35, and Special Agent J.M. Lawler, Buffalo, N.Y. dated 12/16/35.

ENDING

UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK CITY**

FILE NO. **71-127**

REPORT MADE AT CHICAGO, ILL.	DATE WHEN MADE 1/10/36	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/19/35	REPORT MADE BY M. E. CONNEL
TITLE CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY OF COUNTRY LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Names and addresses of dealers in vicinity of New York receiving reply group set out.

R.U.O.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent T. G. Melvin, Milwaukee, Wis., dated 12/4/35.

DETAILS: The noted delinquency in the dictation of this report is due to the fact that immediately following investigation agent was detailed to a plant, and the above data is the first opportunity had by agent to complete the dictation.

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS:

During an interview with Mr. J. F. Snyder, Treasurer of the Chase Press, Chicago, a letter was exhibited to the Agent signed by Mr. Lawrence Sedgwick, Culture Publications, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware. The contents of this letter are of no value to the file, but the above information is being set out for the purpose of the possibility of definitely associating Mr. Lawrence Sedgwick of the Culture Publications, Inc., with the Trojan Publishing Company. It will be noted in previous reports that Mr. Snyder advised that he had never heard of the Culture Publications, and he stated during this interview that this is the first communication he has received on stationery bearing the name "Culture Publications, Inc."

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

Approved and Forwarded  SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	71-168-32 JAN 13 AM	RECORDED AND INDEXED JAN 13 1936 JAN 14 1936
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: Bureau - 1 New York - 1 (U.S. Attorney) - 1 Chicago - 1		

At the request of the Agent Mr. Snyder caused his subordinates to make a search of the galley list for news dealers in the vicinity of New York handling the "spy group" and advised this Office by letter as follows, which letter is self-explanatory:

"December 19th, 1935

"Mr. Myron E. Gurnea,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
210 S. Clark St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Gurnea:-

"As per your request of last week, you will find listed below names of dealers that star copies of Spioy Adventure, Spioy Mystery, and Spioy Detective are being shipped to in the vicinity of New York City, taken off of galley list:

"Interboro News Company
525 W. 46th St.
New York, N. Y.

"Union County News Dealers Supply
1075 Magnolia St.
Elizabeth N. J.

"Central Forwarding Co.
125 East 46th Street
New York, N. Y.

Yours very truly

"THE GURNEO GROUP, Inc.

/s/ J. J. Snyder
J. J. Snyder,
Treasurer.

an undeveloped lead is not being set out to ascertain the true identity of Lawrence Gorman, Wilmington, Delaware, but same is

being left to the discretion of the office of origin.

There being no further undeveloped leads to be investigated in this district this case is

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
Room 1403
370 Lexington Avenue
New York City

AVT:RP
71-229

January 2, 1936

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Pennsylvania Ave. & 9th St., N.W.
Washington, D. C.

RE: Culture Publications, Inc.
Gyrojan Publishing Company
Interstate Shipment of
Obscene Literature

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that owing to the pressure of other urgent matters in this office, it has been impossible to give this case appropriate attention and to submit weekly reports thereon during the past few weeks as requested by the Bureau in letter dated October 29, 1935.

It is expected, however, that this case will receive attention during the next week and the practice of submitting weekly reports will be resumed at that time.

Very truly yours,



H. WHITLEY
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED

71-742-31

JAN 7 1936

JAN 10 1936

ONE MORE

(11)

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Room 1403

370 Lexington Avenue

New York City

71-223

71-223

December 21, 1935

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th Street, N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

Re: Culture Publications, Inc.
Trojan Publishing Company;
Interstate Shipment of
Obscene Literature.

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that Special Agent C. . .
Cannon, to whom this case is assigned, has been actively
engaged on other urgent matters since the submission of
his last report dated December 7, 1935, in view of which
the usual weekly report in this case will not be sub-
mitted this week.

Very truly yours,

R. Whitley, Jr.

R. WHITLEY,
Special Agent in Charge.

RECORDED

71-768-30

DEC 24 1935

DEC 23 1935

SAC Sackett, Buffalo, transmits memo of Agt. J. E. Lawler containing information recd. from confidential informant that D.J. Atty. was to be retained for a consideration to censure an alleged obscene magazine; that representative of FBI named "Tracey" called on subject in case and after few drinks "the matter was fixed". Memo indicates Buffalo has full file on case but no indication anyone by name of "Tracey" worked on same.

Act. SAC Doherty had never handled such matter before and did not send memo to Bu soon as prepared as he thought he would give it to the first inspector who came to that office for transmittal directly to Director.

esk

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK CITY**

FILE NO. **71-11 23**

REPORT MADE AT Buffalo, New York	DATE WHEN MADE 12/16/35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/4, 8, 11/35	REPORT MADE BY J. E. LAYLER
TITLE CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Donenfeld called [redacted] to New York City 12/1/35 relative to publication "Easy Money"; visited [redacted] also relative to publication bootleg Song Sheets. Donenfeld has printing press 175 Verick St., New York City. Armer and Sampliner were publishers of Screenland. Sampliner and Dreyfuss were in Eastern News Co. Dreyfuss paid \$100,000. to clear business. Frank Armer and Jack Edward started Ramra Review. Donenfeld interested in publication of Real Screen Fun. Laurence Cadman, professional hump of Frank Armer; Kennedy, Crawford and Brown believed to be Sampliner, Armer and Estrow.

- P -

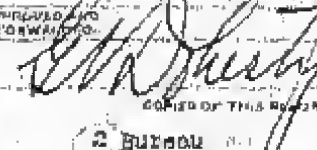
REFERENCE:

Reports of Special Agent G. F. Lannan, New York City dated 11/23/35, 9/26/35 and 10/22/35.

DETAILS:

AT BUFFALO, N.Y.

[redacted] stated upon interview that she had been requested to come to New York City by HARRY DONENFELD a short time ago; that she was in New York City December 1 and 2, 1935; that DONENFELD desired her opinion relative to a new magazine which he was contemplating publishing "Easy Money".

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: 	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 71-1767-29	DEC 23 1935
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 2 Bureau 3 New York City (1 USA SDNY) 2 Buffalo <i>ca. 5000 copies of R. J. Kennedy 7/15/42</i>		DEC 23 1935	

#71-11

which magazine was to depict the various rackets in New York City and explain the methods by which many prominent New York people obtained wealth.

[redacted] also stated DONENFELD had visited her at [redacted] a short time ago relative to the publishing of a "Scotleg Song Sheet", which he was likewise contemplating publishing within the near future.

[redacted] explained she was for a number of years, Secretary to a Congressman at Washington, D. C.; that after this employment she was connected with the U. S. Board of Education at Washington, D. C.; that in this way, she [redacted] received much of the political mechanism and inside working of the Federal Government relative to the Postal regulations, particularly as regard to second class entries; that about eight years ago (1927) she went to New York City and there for two years she [redacted] did various odd jobs and piece work in connection with the publishing of magazines; that she was registered with an employment agency in New York City for some time; that someone who knew of her ability and who likewise knew of Donenfeld's desire to enter the publication of certain magazines, referred her [redacted] to him (DONENFELD); that at this time (1929) DONENFELD had an idle printing press, that before this he had been in the printing business for a number of years; that at the time [redacted] was employed the MERRIWELL PUBLISHING COMPANY was incorporated by HARRY DONENFELD; that she [redacted] handled the editing of the magazines; that HARRY DONENFELD handled the business end of the company; that DONENFELD's brother (first name not known) was the bookkeeper. This brother is presently a salesman in New York City with an unknown concern.

The magazines the MERRIWELL published were "Pop", "La Paree", "Gay Parisienne", "Tattle Tale" and "Bedtime Stories". [redacted] further stated that sometime after the MERRIWELL was incorporated DONENFELD bought "Snappy" from Red Pine, 370 - 7th Avenue, New York City, who has a string of Pulps magazines.

[redacted] further advised that DONENFELD's printing press is presently located at 125 Varick Street, New York City.

#71-11

consisted of two linotype operators and several large presses; that the presses were not being moved to an unknown address in New York City; that she [] was of the opinion that Real Screen Fun, a magazine in which DOMENFELD and FRANK LIPPINCOTT were interested in and a few other magazines distributed by the INDEPENDENT NEWS COMPANY, were printed by this press of DOMENFELD'S; that [] believed the cover pages to most of the magazines were printed at DOMENFELD'S printing press at the above named address.

[] further stated that she was not financially interested in the above named corporation; however, she worked such long hours in order to insure the success of the magazines, that DOMENFELD promised her [] twenty-five percent (25%) of the net profits, which incidently [] stated she never received. [] informed the writer that this corporation rocked along unmolested for a few years.

[] explained that FRANK ARMER and SAM SAMPLINER, about fourteen years ago started from California (believed to be Los Angeles), bringing with them Screenland, a magazine which they had published for a number of years in California; that after being successful with this magazine in Chicago, Illinois, they (ARMER and SAMPLINER) proceeded to New York City and some time ago sold this magazine Screenland to BERNARD SOLOSK. SAMPLINER together with SAM HUNTER, now with the CABLE NEWS COMPANY, New York City, and WARREN ANGEL, retired, and an unknown person, financier of the corporation, started the EASTERN NEWS, a distributor. Each of the above named incorporators had withdrawn from the corporation at the time of the bankruptcy, except SAMPLINER, who was joined in the EASTERN by YOUNG DREYFUSS, whose father, now President of the Pittsburgh Pirates of the National Baseball League Association. FRANK ARMER and JACK EDWARDS started the KEMRA REVIEW at the time the Eastern News Company was incorporated. It will be noted that the letters of ARMER'S name have been transposed to make the trade name "KEMRA"; that the EASTERN was started to distribute the publication of the Kemra Review; that HENRY MARCUS was the managing editor of the Kemra Review and had some financial interest in the company.

[] further stated that SAMPLINER, just before Eastern went into bankruptcy, decided to take a trip to Europe and when he landed in England, much to his surprise, a debarking was

#71-11

awaiting him that the Eastern was defunct and in the state of bankruptcy and although SAMPLINER was President of the company, he knew nothing of the hopelessly involved condition of the company. SAMPLINER immediately returned, completely exonerated himself and placed the entire blame and cause in the lap of young DREYFUS; that DREYFUS' father came thru with \$100,000.00 and cleared the son's name in this instance.

The Remra Review lasted one year and then following the Eastern News Company, went into bankruptcy.

SAMPLINER then (about two years ago) approached DOWNEFIELD with the idea of distributing and publishing the pulp magazines, and it was about the time that DOWNEFIELD had been convicted in the Magistrate's Court in New York City for the violation of section 1141 of the penal code of New York State for the publication of obscene literature; that when DOWNEFIELD and SAMPLINER approached [redacted] with the idea of the pulp she revolted and took a firm stand against it; that the argument eventually became so heated and the gap became so wide between them that she [redacted] was eventually fired.

[redacted] said that MRS. FRANK was not the mother of DOWNEFIELD, but rather the mother of SAMPLINER. Reference is here being made to the writer's report dated at Buffalo, New York 11/11/35 in which it was stated MRS. FRANK was the mother of DOWNEFIELD. This should be corrected as above set out. MRS. FRANK financed SAMPLINER with \$10,000.00 in this enterprise for a share in the business of the Independent News Co., which is a distributor of all the magazines published by the eight publishers listed on door number R23, 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City.

[redacted] informed the writer that ARNER came into the publication and of the business with SAMPLINER and MIKE ESTROW and he (ARNER) is responsible for most of their strongarm methods; that they still do compel news stands to push their books; that further than this their strong arm crew causes untold trouble to other competing publishers; that at present the Independent News Co. was strongly opposed to and is in conflict with the Federal News Co., 330 West 42nd Street, New York City; that the general manager of this company was J. J. HARVEY.

371-11

[redacted] further advised that a short time after leaving DONNELLY she was with the Police Gazette in New York City; that SALTZBERG, ARNER and ESTROW, with the assistance of their strong arm crew annoyed, pestered and molested her business so much that she was forced to leave the business; that this is the practice that is used by these individuals and that instead of using the recognized commercial methods of barter and sale for obtaining business, they use the strong arm method of forcing their competitors out of business.

[redacted] stated that DONNELLY was married; that there were two children by this marriage; that DONNELLY was known to associate with many women in New York City; that DONNELLY had had so many flings with so many different women in so many different rendezvous and restaurants in New York City, and his women associates had caused him so much trouble, that he (DONNELLY) had to pay the way out of, that it would be almost like picking a needle out of a hay stack to find anyone in particular he associated with; however [redacted] advised that DONNELLY was keeping a nurse that lived at Sheephead, New York; that she was perhaps his outstanding attraction in that this nurse had caused DONNELLY a considerable amount of trouble on a number of occasions; that while [redacted] did not know the name of the nurse, she was certain that JACK ALTMAN, Proprietor, ALTMAN'S GRILLE, 38th Street between 7th and 8th Avenues, could furnish the name of the young lady inasmuch as she had thrown a salt shaker in the face of someone there and caused a considerable amount of trouble there at his Grille. [redacted] further informed the writer that JACK ALTMAN was a known gangster in New York City and had served a term in the Sing Sing Penitentiary, but [redacted] believed that ALTMAN would furnish the name and location of this nurse friend of DONNELLY if asked.

[redacted] did not state that she had ever been the paramour of DONNELLY. She did state that she was undesirable having her personal history unduly exposed, and in view of the fact that she has very willingly furnished the writer with considerable information, it was deemed inadvisable to further question her in this regard. She further requested the writer not to disclose her personal history to anyone in Buffalo, as she did not wish her past life to become known. To which request the

NY 100-11

writer advised [] of the secrecy with which all information of the Bureau was guarded and kept.

With reference to report of Special Agent C. F. Lanman, New York City dated 11/23/55 in which he desires to ascertain details and all information [] has in her possession relative to DONENTZEL'S activities; also to determine whether [] ever comes to New York City, and if so, whether an interview could be arranged between [] and Mr. Lanman; inasmuch as the Buffalo Bureau office does not have a complete file of instant case the writer is desirous of ascertaining specifically the information desired concerning DONENTZEL'S activities. It is believed by the writer that [] will cooperate with the Bureau to the limit of the knowledge within her possession.

[] presently has no intention of visiting New York City, and in the event she would visit New York City, it would be at the request of DONENTZEL; in view of which [] questioned the advisability of being interviewed, as it may prove detrimental to her very existence.

[] advised that DONENTZEL had been reared on the East Side of New York City and attended school with JERRY RILEY and other known gangsters. [] stated that many things passed over her head while associated with DONENTZEL, but possibly this is the organization's contact with the Underworld, thus the way by which they may be able to use the strong arm methods to force news stands to handle the magazines and to give trouble to competitors.

[] informed the writer that OSCAR MARKOVITZ is head of the California Candy Co., 661 Broadway, New York City and purchases the turned-back issues of the magazines from the news stands from the Independent News Co. for a reduced price, and these are given as gifts with the purchase of candy at the Columbia Chain of Burlesque show houses, or else the magazines may be sold for a reduced price at these burlesque show houses. An undeveloped lead is being set out for the New York Office to ascertain from Mr.

Page 1

most information could be obtained from these sources as to the publication and distribution of these magazines.

[redacted] stated she believed that the Harrison Publishing Co. was not a publishing company, but was a holding company and not a publishing company, because a number of contracts have been made with this company, and that the company had published could be unable to receive such, for prices for supplies as were contained in the contracts of Harrison Publishing Co.

UNSUBSIGNED LEADS

THE NEW YORK OFFICE at NEW YORK CITY at 170 Varick Street, will endeavor to ascertain the books that are printed at this office, will interview J. W. Harvey, President of the Federal News, ascertaining the names of the publications distributed by the Federal News Co. and also develop what information they have relative to the independent press co. and the publisher for which they distribute. Will ascertain the names of the books with which DOWNFIELD has had many conflicts, thru JACK ALPERT, proprietor of ALBANY CHIEF, 18th Street between 7th and 8th Avenues. It will be noted JACK ALPERT is a known underworld character and is reported to have served a term at Sing Sing penitentiary. Will interview OSCAR KERNOWITZ, 641 Broadway, California Supply Co., and ascertain the sources of the purchase of back numbers of magazines of the pulp variety, particularly the "T" Magazine. Will ascertain the names of the publishers listed on door #223 at 320 Lexington Avenue. Will determine the source of the purchase of back numbered magazines of these pulp varieties from the NELSON PAPER CO., West 42nd Street, and will interview MR. PIERCE at the BUCKLEBONE, address not known, telephone number FULBANK 6-4004, ascertaining the same information as set out above.

THE BUFFALO OFFICE at BUFFALO, N.Y., will contact the Vice Squad of the Buffalo Police Department and make such other investigation as appears appropriate.

- P. E. S. D. S. C. -

- 4 -

Page 2

ascertain the source of the purchase of these magazines, particularly the "T" Magazine which appears under name in Lexington Ave. Herald Place.

While [redacted] has stated that DOWNFIELD is financially interested in any publication other than the "T" Magazine, she has stated that his activities and name are not mentioned in connection with the publication of these magazines in view of the fact that DOWNFIELD was convicted in the New York Magistrate's Court in December 1932, and further his name could not be connected with the publication and of the business in view of the fact that the Magistrate's Court gave DOWNFIELD three months within which to sell his interest in these magazine publications, and that actually, DOWNFIELD would not subject himself to an additional penalty for a second violation of the publication of obscene literature in New York City.

It is noted in Special Agent LAMMAN's report dated 3/20/33, New York City, that Lawrence LAMMAN, 120 Lexington Avenue, New York City is the editor of these magazines. For the information of the New York office, [redacted] advises this is the professional name of FRANK ARON.

[redacted] stated that the "T" Magazine is a clerical paper in the office of the Independent News Co. and that of 11, 12 the "T" number of DOWNFIELD, 120 Lexington Avenue, New York City, could have no interest in any of the business other than his own.

[redacted] advised that the Nelson Paper Co., Brooklyn, West 42nd Street, New York City, and Bookman, address not known, 100, 101st St. in charge, telephone number FULBANK 6-4000, New York City, were perhaps the two largest sources in the business buying back numbered magazines and the [redacted] believed

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

71-229
CFL:AOB

Room 1403
370 Lexington Avenue
New York, N. Y.

December 13, 1935

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th St. N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Re: Cultura Publications, Inc.
Otrojen Publishing Company,
Interstate shipment of
obscene literature.

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that Special Agent J. P. Lanson, to whom this case is assigned, has been actively engaged on other urgent matters since the submission of his last report dated December 7, 1935, in view of which the usual weekly report in this case will not be submitted this week.

Very truly yours,

R. M. D. L.
R. M. D. L.
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED

71-768-28

DEC 16 1935

W. J. 088

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

FILE NO. 71-3

REPORT MADE AT DENVER, COLORADO	DATE WHEN MADE 12-5-35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12-2-35	REPORT MADE BY L. C. HEALY RM
TITLE CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE SHIPMENT OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Mr. Willard E. Hawkins, editor of Author & Journalist, expresses belief that Culture Publications, Inc., and Trojan Publishing Co. are identical exhibiting letter typed on Trojan Publishing Co. letterhead advising one Ed Modia, Author's Agent, as to shortage of stories for Spicy Mystery Stories. Mr. Hawkins unable to offer any definite information to substantiate his belief. Spicy group of magazines are distributed to Denver news dealers through the Denver News Co. distributor, who receives same by express from the Independent News Co. of New York, national distributors.

END.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent C. F. LEMMON, New York City, N. Y., 10-22-35.

DETAILS:

Agent interviewed Mr. Willard E. Hawkins, editor of the Author & Journalist, a monthly trade magazine. Mr. Hawkins stated that he believed that Culture Publications, Incorporated, and the Trojan Publishing Company, are one and the same company but was unable to offer any positive proof of same. However, he stated that in submitting manuscripts,

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		DEC 8 - AM
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authors are requested that such be submitted to 900 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware, which is the address of Spicy Mystery Stories, which is published by the Culture Publications, Incorporated, but that manuscripts are returned to the author from 125 East 46th Street, New York City, which is the address of the Trojan Publishing Company. Mr. Hawkins was unable to find any rejection slips in his records to substantiate this.

Mr. Hawkins exhibited to Agent a letter which was typed on a letterhead of the Trojan Publishing Company, dated July 23, 1935, and addressed to Ed Bodin, 151 - 5th Avenue, New York City, New York. The letter reads as follows:

"Dear Mr. Bodin:

"I find that there is a shortage of mystery stories in the house for Spicy Mystery Stories.

"Suggest you keep this in mind when submitting stories in the near future.

"Cordially yours,

"TROIJAN PUBLISHING CORPORATION

"Frank Arnot."

Mr. Hawkins further advised that Ed Bodin is his representative in New York City and is also an Author's Agent there. He further advised that Mr. Bodin would be an excellent reference in seeking further information concerning these two companies. Mr. Hawkins also exhibited to Agent a letter from Culture Publications, 900 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware, addressed to the Author & Journalist, which reads as follows:

"Gentlemen:

"We note that you have the address of Spicy Adventure Stories and Spicy Detective Stories listed in the current issue of Author & Journalist as 125 East 46th Street, New York.

"If you list these magazines at all kindly make the address read 900 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware, as this is our correct address.

"Very truly yours

"CULTURE PUBLICATIONS INC.
(Initials in pencil S?)

Both of these letters are being forwarded to the New York Office.

Mr. Hawkins further stated that it is his belief that Lawrence Cadman, allegedly the editor of Culture Publications, is the same person as Frank Armer, editor of the Trojan Publishing Company.

Mr. Hawkins further advised that Super Detective Stories are also published by the Trojan Publishing Company, and stated that he did not know how such magazines were shipped to Denver.

Mr. Hawkins advised that the following persons would be able to furnish information concerning these two companies: Arthur Lenniger, Literary Agent, 45 West 45th Street, New York City; Joseph Lichtblau, Author's Agent, Post Office Box 63, Station H, New York City, a dealer in sex stuff; the American Fiction Guild, Arthur J. Burke, President, which is an organization of pulp paper writers, 526 Hudson Street, New York City.

Mr. J. H. Martin, Manager of the Denver News Company, 2126 Arapahoe Street, Denver, Colorado, advised that his company distributed among others the Spicy Group of Magazines, and that he received same from the Independent News Company of New York City, who are national distributors of such type magazines. He further stated that all such magazines distributed in Denver came through the Denver News Company inasmuch as any requests from dealers direct to the publishers of the Independent News Company were referred to his organization. He further stated that the Spicy Group of Magazines were shipped to him by express from the Independent News Company of New York City. Mr. Louis Simon of the National News Agency, 707 - 17th Street, Denver, Colorado, substantiated the above information received from Mr. Martin.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE NEW YORK CITY OFFICE: At New York City, New York, will contact Arthur Lenniger, 45 West 45th Street; Joseph Lichtblau, Post Office Box 63, Station H; Arthur J. Burke, President, American Fiction Guild, 526 Hudson Street, relative to any information regarding the Culture Publications, Incorporated, and the Trojan Publishing Company. It is further suggested that efforts be made to determine whether or not Lawrence Cadman and Frank Armer are identical.

The letters referred to in this report are being forwarded to the New York Office for their information.

RETURNED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, N. Y.**

N. Y. FILE NO. 71-29

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, N. Y.	DATE WHEN MADE 12/1/35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/2, 4, 6/35	REPORT MADE BY C. F. LAMM
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CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. 1902AN PUBLISHING COMPANY	CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE SHIPMENT OF OBSCENE LITERATURE
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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Efforts to locate copy of "Snappy Stories" or "Snappy Magazine" unsuccessful to date. Book number of "Snappy Magazine" located in second hand book store. Column by Bob Maxwell fails to advise regarding any questionable literature. Book number reflects magazine published by B & M Publishing Co.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent C. F. Lamm, New York, N. Y., dated November 30, 1935; report of Special Agent T. C. Molin, Milwaukee, Wis., dated December 4, 1935.

DETAILS:

In an effort to secure copies of "Snappy Magazine" or "Snappy Stories" in which BOB MAXWELL is alleged to conduct a column which furnishes information as to where various obscene books can be purchased, agent visited various news-stands in the City of New York but was unable to find a current issue of "Snappy Magazine" or "Snappy Stories." However, at a second hand magazine and book store visited by agent, agent found several back copies of a magazine entitled "Snappy" in which a column was conducted by BOB MAXWELL setting forth information concerning recently

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published books and the method of obtaining these books. Agent noted, however, that none of these books were of obscene nature inasmuch as they are all for sale in almost any book store in the City of New York. Therefore, agent did not purchase a copy of this magazine which was a June, 1935, issue. In the same book store agent was advised by a clerk in the store that the magazine "Snappy Stories" was discontinued within the past year and that the only magazine being published with a title similar to "Snappy Stories" is "Snappy Magazine" and that it is published by the D & M Publications, Inc., with which DOWNEFELD is supposed to have formerly been associated.

Further effort will be made by agent to locate and buy a current issue of "Snappy Magazine" from a news-stand in New York City and if this is impossible a back issue of this magazine will be purchased and efforts will be made to contact BOB MAXWELL in the manner set forth in reference report of November 30, 1935.

In view of the information contained in reference report of December 4, 1935, a copy of the report of Special Agent C. F. Lanman, New York, N. Y., dated November 23, 1935, is being forwarded to the Chicago office under separate cover.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

NEW YORK OFFICE

Will continue its investigation with a view to locating a current issue of "Snappy Magazine" to determine whether it is still published by D & M Publications, Inc., or whether it is published by the Trojan Publishing Company or Culturo Publications, Inc.

Will attempt to contact BOB MAXWELL regarding obscene books in the event that he is conducting a column in "Snappy Magazine" giving advice regarding the purchase of obscene books.

Will complete undeveloped leads set forth in report of Special Agent C. F. Lanman, New York, N. Y., dated November 23, 1935.

PENDING.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, N. Y.**

MILWAUKEE FILE NO. **71-5**

REPORT MADE AT Milwaukee, Wisconsin	DATE WHEN MADE 12/4/35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/22, 30/35	REPORT MADE BY T. G. MELVIN TGM:JH
TITLE CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE SHIPMENT OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Investigation discloses that manuscripts of the Spicy Group are forwarded to the Wisconsin Cuneo Press, Milwaukee, Wis., by the Trojan Publishing Co., or Culture Publications, Inc., by express. Proofs are returned by express after they have been approved by the Trojan Publishing Co., and are then returned to the Wisconsin Cuneo Press by express. Instructions issued by mail by K. W. Hutchinson, Frank Arner, R. Sokol, and W. Matthews of the Trojan Publishing Co.

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent M. E. Gurnea, dated at Chicago, Ill. 11-9-35; reports of Special Agent G. F. Lanman, dated at New York City, N.Y., 11-15-35 and 11-25-35.

DETAILS:

AT MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

Agent interviewed Mr. D. A. Forsberg, Vice-president and General Manager, Wisconsin Cuneo Press, Inc., 4400 North Fort Washington Road, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mr. Forsberg stated that the Wisconsin Cuneo Press has been handling work for the Culture Publications, Inc., and the Trojan Publishing Company since January 1935; that the original contract between the Cuneo Press and the latter two companies was entered into with the Chicago Office of the Cuneo Press, and that their correspondence has been with Frank Arner, R. Sokol, W. Matthews, and one K. W. Hutchinson re-

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">U. W. [Signature]</div>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">71-768-25</div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 2-Bureau 2-New York (1-U.S. Atty., S.D. N.Y.) 2-Chicago 2-Milwaukee	DEC 7 1935 DEC - 9 1935 <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">DEC 7 - A.M.</div>

lating to the proofs of the manuscripts of the Spioy group; that the manuscripts themselves are sent by express; that the time is limited and they are shipped by air express. After the proofs are prepared they are sent back to the Trojan Publishing Company at 185 East 46th Street, New York City, New York, who then return the proofs to the Wisconsin Cuneo Press, where the "tenaplates" are made. The "tenaplates" are then sent to the Cuneo Press, 22nd and Canal Streets, Chicago, Illinois for printing and distribution.

In the event it is desired to subpoena any records of the Wisconsin Cuneo Press, 4400 North Port Washington Road, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the subpoena should be directed to Mr. D. A. Forsberg, Vice-president and General Manager.

In connection with the lead set out in the report of Special Agent C. F. Lammie, dated at New York City November 23, 1935, attention is drawn to the fact that the Wisconsin Cuneo Press, 4400 North Port Washington Road, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, takes no part in the actual printing and distribution of the Spioy group. A lead is therefore being set out for the Chicago Office to secure this information.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD:

CHICAGO OFFICE:

The New York City Office in a report dated November 23, 1935, by Special Agent C. F. Lammie, a copy of which was not furnished to the Chicago Office, requested the Milwaukee Office to ascertain some of the points to which the "Star group" is delivered, for the purpose of determining if the "Star group" is being sent to New York City or to any points in the vicinity of New York City.

Inasmuch as the Cuneo Press, 22nd and Canal Streets, Chicago, Illinois handles the printing and distribution of the magazines of the Spioy group, the Chicago Office is requested to obtain this information.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form 204

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK CITY

FILE NO. 71-235

EL

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK CITY	DATE WHEN MADE 11/20/35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/22, 23, 24/35	REPORT MADE BY C. F. LAMMAN
TITLE CULTURED PUBLICATIONS, INC. CROOKER PUBLISHING COMPANY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Lee interviewed at Woodstock, N. Y., state they possess no facts concerning business relations of Harry Denfield and Mrs. Morris; furnish information to effect that "Happy Stories", magazine published by Denfield contains column edited by Bob Maxwell which offers information where obscene literature can be purchased. Facts presented to U.S. City... and believes that stories as written do not constitute material sufficiently obscene to warrant successful prosecution; not suggests further investigation into advertising matter contained in magazine.

- I -

REFERENCE

Report of Special Agent C. F. Lamman, New York City, 11-14-35.
J. B. Lawler, Buffalo, N. Y., 11-22-35.
C. F. Lamman, New York City, 11-25-35.

DETAILS

Agent located Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Lee at 31-2115, Woodstock, N. Y., an artist community located about two miles north of the town of Woodstock, and questioned them concerning their former association with HARRY DENFIELD, and also, the connection between DENFIELD and Mrs. MORRIS. They stated that the only information they possessed relative to the connection between DENFIELD and Mrs. MORRIS was of a personal nature, that is, con-

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concerning the private lives of these two people; that they did not know a great deal concerning any business relations between MRS. HERSEY and DONENFELD, except for one detail. In connection with this, MRS. LEE stated that she was directly responsible for the breakup between DONENFELD and MRS. HERSEY; that MRS. HERSEY had been working for DONENFELD and also for a competitor of his; that she, MRS. LEE, while in DONENFELD'S office, inadvertently made a statement which caused DONENFELD to become suspicious and question MRS. HERSEY, to find out what she was, to some extent, double-crossing him; and that, because of this discovery, DONENFELD discharged MRS. HERSEY.

MR. and MRS. LEE were unable to give any information regarding any reasons that DONENFELD may have had for paying MRS. HERSEY "push" money, inasmuch as they stated that it was their opinion that DONENFELD was clever enough to cover up any illegal business transactions that he may have engaged in without MRS. HERSEY'S having had any great knowledge of them. MR. and MRS. LEE both stated that the reason they discontinued their association with DONENFELD was the fact that they did not care to write the sort of story that DONENFELD required for his publications; that DONENFELD now hates them both, due to the fact that he at one time was under the impression that MRS. LEE was single and that under this impression, he had made improper advances to her, and that MR. LEE told DONENFELD that MRS. LEE was his wife and that he was to leave her alone or else he, MR. LEE, would make it very disagreeable for him. Since that time, they have had nothing further to do with DONENFELD or any of his publications.

Agent questioned MR. LEE concerning the type of advertising carried by DONENFELD in the "spicy" group of magazines, and was advised by MR. LEE that it was his opinion, based upon past experience, that the advertising carried in these magazines is perfectly legal, inasmuch as the matter sells to anyone requesting apparently obscene publications is perfectly innocent and not in any way what the advertisement would lead the purchaser to expect it to be. He stated, however, that in the "Snappy Stories" magazine, also published by DONENFELD, there is a column run by one BOB MAXWELL, who writes under various names, such as KEN COOPER, and other names which he could not recall at the time. Such column offers advice as to where obscene literature can be purchased; that he, MR. LEE, is of the opinion that DONENFELD does not receive any part of the income derived from the operation of this column, but that due to the fact that MAXWELL writes numerous stories for him, permits MAXWELL to run this column in the "Snappy Stories" magazine. MR.

LEE stated that if agent would be interested in securing the information indicated by MAXWELL in his column, he should write to MAXWELL on cheap stationery, in pencil, making the inquiry appear to be the work of an illiterate person, and furnishing an address in New York City in a poor neighborhood; that if this was done, information would no doubt be received from MAXWELL which would tend to show that both MAXWELL and BORNWELD dealt with certain types of obscene literature on the side.

Agent presented the facts in this case to Assistant U. S. Attorney Joseph V. Martin, Southern District of New York, who after carefully reviewing the copies of the "Spicy" magazines contained in the New York Bureau Office file, stated that in his opinion the matter contained in these magazines was not of such a nature as to insure a successful prosecution, but that it was also his opinion that investigation should be conducted into the advertising contained in these magazines in an effort to determine whether the matter offered by these advertisements was of an obscene nature; that in the event it was discovered that this matter advertised was of an obscene nature, that fact, coupled with the low type of story appearing in these magazines, would probably be sufficient to result in a successful prosecution.

It was with this view in mind that agent questioned MR. and MRS. FREDERICK LEE, as stated above, regarding the advertising in these magazines, and in accordance with their statement that the "Snappy Stories" magazine contains a column by BOB MAXWELL, which furnishes information relative to obscene literature, a lead is being set out for the New York Bureau Office to secure a copy of this magazine and to communicate with the writer of this column in an effort to determine whether obscene literature can be obtained by this method.

In view of the statements contained in the reference report of Special Agent J. E. Lawler, Buffalo, N. Y., dated November 23, 1935, no further work is being done at this time on the lead set out in the reference report of the writer, dated November 23, 1935, to determine BORNWELD'S connection with the Trojan Publishing Company.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

NEW YORK CITY OFFICE

At New York City, will complete the undeveloped leads set out in the reference report of the writer, dated at New York City, November 23, 1935.

Will secure a copy of the "Snappy Stories" magazine, published by HARRY BORNWELD, and will follow out the instructions contained in the body of instant report relative to contacting the writer of the column mentioned above.

UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK CITY**

S. I. FILE NO. **71-289**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK CITY	DATE WHEN MADE 11/23/35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/16, 18 & 19/35	REPORT MADE BY G. F. LAMMAN
TITLE OUTLIER PUBLICATIONS, INC. TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF CRIMINAL LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Efforts to locate Mildred Mann unsuccessful to date. Records of Clerk of General Sessions Court, New York City, reflect Rosenfeld convicted 1/23/35 under Section 1161, Penal Law, State of New York, fined \$250 and sentenced to six months. Placed on probation.

REFERENCE:

Reports of Special Agents M. E. Gurnea, Chicago, Ill., dated 11/8/35; J. E. Lander, Buffalo, N. Y., dated 11/11/35, and G. F. Lamman, New York City, dated 11/19/35.

DETAILS:

DETAILS:

AT NEW YORK CITY.

Agent attempted to locate Miss **MILDRED MANN**, whose telephone number was given to Mrs. **ROSEN** as **Graham 6-1342**.

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FORWARDED:

[Signature]

SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

71-768-23

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UNITED STATES

NOV 29 1935

Mr. Tolson

Mr. E. A. Tamm

Mr. Clegg

Mr. New York 10, Albany, New York

71-229

Records of the New York Telephone Company reflect that Columbus 5-1542 is listed in the name of E. BOCHER, residing at 161 West 54th Street, New York City. Discreet inquiry at this address reveals that there is no one living there by the name of Miss MILDRED MANN.

A thorough search of the New York City telephone directories reflects several Miss MILDRED MANNs. An effort will be made to determine if any one of these persons is the MILDRED MANN in question.

It is noted in the report of Special Agent J. E. Lawler, Buffalo, N. Y., dated November 11, 1935, that [redacted] stated that she did not believe that HARRY DOWENFELD was any longer connected with the Culture Publications, Inc. or Trojan Publishing Company, due to the fact that he had been involved in a suit in the Magistrate's Court, New York City, and ordered to discontinue the publication of certain magazines.

At the Clerk's Office, Court of General Sessions, New York City, agent conducted an investigation and determined the fact that an indictment was filed on June 26, 1934, against HARRY DOWENFELD for a violation of Section 1141 of the Penal Law, State of New York. This section covers the publication of obscene literature. DOWENFELD pleaded guilty on January 23, 1935, to the charge contained in the indictment and was fined \$250 which was paid in court; also sentenced to six months in prison on the same date. Execution of prison term suspended during the good behavior of defendant.

The company which DOWENFELD was president of at the time he was arrested, was known as the D. & M. Publishing Company, and it was noted by agent that during the trial, the names of the Culture Publications, Inc. and the Trojan Publishing Company failed to appear. Further steps will be taken to definitely determine whether or not DOWENFELD has sold his interest in the Trojan Publishing Company. In regard to the Culture Publications, Inc., this action is not necessary, inasmuch as DOWENFELD'S name does not appear in the incorporation papers as an officer of that corporation. A lead is therefore being set out for the New York Office to continue their investigation in an attempt to ascertain whether or not DOWENFELD is still an officer of the Trojan Publishing Company.

71-829

It is also noted in the report of Special Agent J. E. Lawler, Buffalo, N. Y., dated November 11, 1935, that [] gave only general information in connection with DONATFIELD. Inasmuch as it was reported to the writer on various occasions that [] had accepted money from DONATFIELD to keep quiet regarding his magazine articles, it is felt that [] undoubtedly has considerable information which she has failed to reveal. This is further substantiated by the fact that she stated to Agent Lawler that she was reluctant to give any information due to the fact that her life would be in danger if DONATFIELD were to become aware that she had given any information concerning him. It is, therefore, desirable that [] be again contacted and an attempt made to secure more detailed information from her as to DONATFIELD'S activities; also to determine whether [] ever comes to New York City and if so, whether an interview could be arranged between [] and the writer.

It is noted that in the report of Special Agent M. E. Gurnea, Chicago, Illinois, dated November 8, 1935, the Spicy Detective magazine is at the present time being printed in two publications, one known as the "individual" group and one known as the "star group". It is believed that the "individual group" is the toned down magazine, while the "star group" is of a more obscene nature.

It is desired by the New York Bureau Office that the Milwaukee office endeavor to ascertain some of the points to which the "star group" is delivered, that is, whether the "star group" is being sent to New York City or to any points in the vicinity of New York City. A lead is therefore being set out for the Milwaukee Office to secure this information.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS: MILWAUKEE OFFICE.

At MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin, will attempt to secure from the Wisconsin Gurnea Press, 1400 North Fort Washington Road, information relative to the "individual" and "star" issues of the Spicy Detective magazine.

71-229

Will complete undeveloped lead as set forth in report of Special Agent M. E. Gurnea, Chicago, Ill., dated November 8, 1935.

BUFFALO OFFICE.

At BUFFALO, N. Y., will again contact [redacted] and attempt to secure more detailed information regarding her former association with HARRY DOWENFELD.

NEW YORK OFFICE.

At NEW YORK CITY, will conduct further investigation in an effort to locate Miss MILDRED MANN and secure from her information she may have in reference to Mrs. MABLE HERSEY and HARRY DOWENFELD.

Will also conduct further investigation to determine whether or not DOWENFELD is still connected with the Trojan Publishing Company.

At WOODSTOCK, N. Y., will complete undeveloped lead set forth in reference report of Special Agent C. F. Lanman, New York City, dated November 15, 1935.

At NEW YORK CITY, will complete undeveloped lead set forth in report of Special Agent M. E. Gurnea, Chicago, Ill., dated November 8, 1935.

-PENDING-

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK CITY**

FILE NO. **71-11320**

REPORT MADE AT Buffalo, New York	DATE WHEN MADE 11/22/35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/16, 18 & 19/35	REPORT MADE BY J. E. Lasker
TITLE 2 CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Richter Periodical Company, Buffalo, New York, local distributor for Independent News Company, Inc., particularly "PEEP", "SPICY", "SLA PAREE", "GAY PARISIAN", "SHAPPY", "EDDIE STORIES" and "TATTLE TALE". Harry Dohenfeld is the publisher of these magazines. Sampliner, President, Independent News Company, Inc., distributor. Dohenfeld visited Mrs. Hersey at Lilydale, New York three weeks ago.

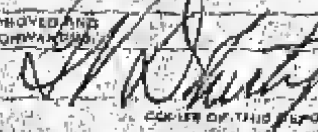
REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent C. E. Lamm, New York City, dated 11/15/35.

DETAILS:

Peter J. Fiorilla, Hutch Pharmacy, 332 South Elmwood Avenue, stated upon selling writer a Spicy Mystery that the local distributor for these and other magazines of its kind was the Richter Periodical Company, located at 587 Michigan Avenue.

George Richter, President of the Richter Periodical Company, 587 Michigan Avenue, stated upon interview that he had been the local distributor for the Independent News Company, Inc., that he had limited the distribution to those persons who would sell them discretely and it was requested by him that no display of these magazines should be made; that a short time after Mr. Dohenfeld

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71-11

was in Buffalo, he received the following letter from the Independent News Company, Inc. As the letter is possible evidence in the case, it is being quoted verbatim.

Independent News Co., Inc.
480 Lexington Avenue
New York City

August 23, 1936

Wichter Periodical Co.,
507 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, N. Y.

Gentlemen:-

"There has been considerable dissatisfaction with the sales in Buffalo on all of our magazines--more particularly, however, with reference to the PEP, SPICY, LA PAPER, GAY PARISIENNE, SPADY and ENDTIME STORIES and TATTLE TALE group.

"When the publisher of these magazines, Mr. Donsenfeld, was in Buffalo, he met a representative of the Empire City News Company. I believe that is the name of your competitor and they showed him figures on what they were doing on the Federal News line. Assuming these to be correct, they are doing a great deal better work than you are on ours. Their sales were equal and in some cases superior to your sales... It seems unbelievable in view of the inferior quality of their magazines and the matter has been put squarely up to me to defend your efforts in the territory.

"I would like to hear from you as to just what you think the possibilities are for increased sales on all of our magazines--and more particularly those mentioned above. You know that our interests have always been mutual and that I will continue to do my best to keep you as our representative indefinitely, but I must have some assistance from you.

Cordially yours,

INDEPENDENT NEWS CO., INC.
/s/ Paul Sampliner
PAUL H. SAMPLINER, PRES."

2/13/40

71-11

The original of this letter is being retained in the Buffalo files.

Mr. Richter further stated that some three weeks ago Mr. Donenfeld was in Buffalo, and at this time Donenfeld stated that he was making a visit to a member of his family at Lilydale, New York.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD:

The Buffalo Bureau Office, at Buffalo, New York, will contact the Vice Squad at the Buffalo Police Department and make such other investigation as appears necessary.

P E N D I N G

November 21, 1935.

RECORDED
71-368-21
Special Agent in Charge,
New York, New York.

Re: Culture Publications, Inc.
Trojan Publishing Company.
Interstate Transportation
of Obscene Literature.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your communication dated
November 16, 1935, regarding the following:

HARRY DOWNSFIELD

In reply thereto, please be advised that from the
information furnished it has not been possible to locate any
record in the fingerprint files of the Federal Bureau of Investi-
gation.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
If you can obtain and forward additional descriptive
data, or fingerprints, it shall be glad to have a further search
conducted in an effort to ascertain any existing information.

NOV 21 1935

Very truly yours,

F. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

John Edgar Hoover
Director.

R

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

CFL:LS
71-229

Room 1403
370 Lexington Avenue
New York, N. Y.

November 16, 1933.

Director,
Division of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Re: ^O CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC.
OTROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.
INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION
OF OBSCENE LITERATURE.

Dear Sir:

Kindly furnish the known criminal record of the following:

Name (inc. aliases)	City, Police Arrest, or Other Number.	Approximate date Fingerprints for- warded Division of Investigation.	Fingerprint Classification
HARRY DORNFELD 6 11-19-12 6 11-19-33			13 U 01 13 16 U 00 16

Age: 41 (in 1933); born in Rumania.
Residence: 110 Riverside Drive, New York City.
Occupation: Publisher.
Arrested: By New York City Police in 1933,
for violation of Section 1141,
New York State Penal Law;
pleaded guilty.

RECORDED

INDEXED

Very truly yours,

NOV 23 1933

R. WHITLEY,
Special Agent in Charge.

Wm

Form No. 1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK CITY

N. Y. FILE NO. 71-229

15

REPORT MADE BY NEW YORK CITY	DATE WHEN MADE 11-12-35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/8, 9, 11, 12/35	REPORT MADE BY C. F. LAMMAN
TITLE UNITED PUBLICATIONS, INC. MODERN PUBLISHING COMPANY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS - FACTS

William C. Foster unable to furnish any definite information concerning Mrs. Hersey and Donsfeld. States Donsfeld and Mrs. Hersey now bitter enemies. Suggests name of party to be interviewed by agent, who might be able to furnish information regarding instant case. Mrs. Foster contacted agent telephonically and advised of additional names of individuals to be contacted who might have information in instant case. Records of Police Department, City of New York, failed to reflect any information relative to supposed fight engaged in by Donsfeld and a woman in a saloon on 30th Street, New York City.

- P -

DETAILS

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent C. F. Lamman, New York City, dated 11-6-35; report of Special Agent M. E. Gurnea, Chicago, Ill., dated 11-8-35; and report of Special Agent J. D. Johnson, Cincinnati, Ohio, dated 11-9-35.

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TOTAL NUMBER
OF COPIES

71-768-20

RECORDED AND INDEXED

NOV 10 1935

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

NOV 19 1935

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- 2 - Milwaukee
- 2 - Buffalo
- 3 - New York (1-U. S. Atty., S. D. N. Y.)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COPIES

DETAILS:

AT NEW YORK CITY:

WILLIAM COOK was finally located at 373 Fourth Avenue, Room 906, where he is engaged in publishing the magazine entitled "New Fun". Mr. COOK was questioned closely by agent regarding any knowledge he possessed concerning the relations of Mrs. MARLE HERSEY and HARRY DOMENFELD. Mr. COOK stated that he was unable to furnish agent with very much information concerning these two because of the fact that he had been out of touch for some time with magazine activities in the field in which DOMENFELD operates; that he does know that Mrs. HERSEY and HARRY DOMENFELD were very closely connected at one time and it is his (COOK'S) opinion that DOMENFELD was keeping Mrs. HERSEY, but that they had some disagreement and that DOMENFELD kicked Mrs. HERSEY out, and that he believed that Mrs. HERSEY, if located, would be more than willing to tell anything she knew concerning DOMENFELD, and he (COOK) is of the opinion that she knows plenty. COOK further stated that he had heard rumors to the effect that DOMENFELD employed a gang of men to intimidate news dealers in the City of New York into handling his magazines, but that he had heard very little regarding these activities of DOMENFELD in the past year and was of the opinion that it might be that DOMENFELD had ceased his activities along these lines.

Mr. COOK advised agent that if he would get in touch with a Mr. H. D. CUSHING, 49 West 45th Street, New York City, he could undoubtedly secure considerable personal history and information relative to the method used by DOMENFELD, although Mr. COOK stated that he was not certain just how well CUSHING would be able to keep his mouth shut. Mr. COOK stated that, while he was not in touch any more with the activities of parties in instant case, if he learns of anything that may be of interest to agent, he will contact him at once.

Mrs. MYRTLE CONEY/FOSTER, of Passaic, N. J., contacted agent by telephone subsequent to his last interview with her and advised him that she had remembered the names of several other people who, undoubtedly, could help in locating Mrs. HERSEY and, also, in supplying information relative to her relations with DOMENFELD, as well as information concerning DOMENFELD'S personal habits, and Mrs. FOSTER suggested that agent contact Mr. and Mrs. FREDERICK LEE, residing at Saranate Birdcliff, Woodstock, N. Y., which is located near Kingston, N. Y.; that Mr. and Mrs. LEE had formerly been editors for DOMENFELD; that Mrs. LEE was responsible for the break between DOMENFELD and Mrs. HERSEY, and that she now

hates DONENFELD very much and, no doubt, would be glad to injure him in any way she could by furnishing information if she thought the result would be disastrous for DONENFELD. Mrs. FOSTER also stated that Miss MILDRED MANN, residing in New York City, whose address she does not know but whose telephone number is Columbus 5-1542, might also have valuable information relative to DONENFELD, and that she could be relied upon to be discreet. Mrs. FOSTER further stated that she had found out that Mrs. WILLIAMS, the mother of Mrs. HERSEY, whose name is BILL, when she resided in Washington, was employed by the Pension Office in that city. Mrs. FOSTER stated that she expected to leave for Gallup, N. M., on Friday, November 15, 1935 and be gone for the winter; that while in New Mexico, her address will be care of General Delivery, Gallup, N. M., and that if there is any further information desired by agent, he can write her at the above address.

At the Criminal Identification Division, New York Police Department, the criminal records were examined by Special Agent JAMES E. AMOS, and it was developed that there was no record of DONENFELD having been engaged in a brawl with a woman in a saloon on 20th Street, between 6th and 7th Avenues. The only information available concerning DONENFELD was that he was arrested in November, 1933, charged with violation of Section 1141, P. L., which is a violation of the policy racket; that he pleaded guilty to the charge; that he was 41 years of age and born in Rumania. His fingerprint classification, as shown by the New York Police Department is 13 U 01 13
18 U 00 16.

The files of the New York Police Department do not contain any photographs of DONENFELD. A letter is, therefore, being forwarded to the Bureau requesting the criminal record, if any, on DONENFELD.

It is noted that in reference report of Special Agent M. E. Gurnea, Chicago, Ill., dated November 8, 1935, an undeveloped lead is set forth for the Milwaukee Office, at Milwaukee, Wis., to ascertain from the Wisconsin Caneen Press, 4400 North Fort Washington Road, from whom and how the manuscripts for the Spioy group are received, and also, to obtain all information looking toward a possible prosecution in this matter, and the names of the proper persons to subpoena in the event that any of their records are deemed necessary.

In view of the fact that the Bureau has requested a weekly report on the instant case, it is requested that the Milwaukee Office act accordingly, and expedite the lead as set forth in the abovementioned report.

71-222.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

NEW YORK OFFICE:

At New York City, will complete the undeveloped leads as set forth in the report of Special Agent M. E. Gurnea, Chicago, Ill., dated November 8, 1935 and the report of Special Agent J. B. Johnson, Cincinnati, Ohio, dated November 9, 1935.

At Woodstock, N. Y., will contact Mr. and Mrs. FREDERICK LEE and secure from them all information they may possess relative to Mrs. HERSEY and HARRY DORNFELD.

At New York City, will also locate Miss MILDRED MAHN, whose telephone number is COLUMBIA 5-1542, and secure from her any information she may have relative to Mrs. HERSEY and DORNFELD.

PENDING.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK CITY**

FILE NO. **71-11 CJO**

REPORT MADE AT Buffalo, New York	DATE WHEN MADE 11/11/35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/8/35	REPORT MADE BY J. E. Lawler
TITLE CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Harry Donesfeld, Paul Sampliner are partners in the Independent News Co. which is financially backed by Mrs. Frank, mother of Donesfeld. This company distributes all magazines published by the Culture, Trojan and other publishers listed on door #523, 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City. Frank Armour, Mike Satrow and Paul Sampliner are partners in the Trojan and Culture publications listed at 490 Lexington Avenue, New York City. Donesfeld, owner of Mariwell Publishing Company was fined in 1933 for publishing obscene literature, in the Magistrate's Court in New York City. Oscar Markovick, 661 Broadway, New York City purchases a number of these magazines from a distributor.

REFERENCE:

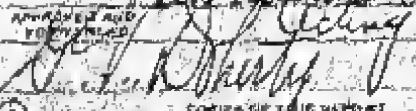

Report of Special Agent C. F. Leland, New York City, dated 11/8/35.

DETAILS:

At LILYDALE, NEW YORK

when interviewed, was reluctant to

the reporting agent any information in view of the fact that her life

APPROVED AND FORWARDED  SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">71-762-19</div>	NOV 14 1935 NOV 16 1935 NOV 13 P.M.
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 2 - Bureau 3 - New York (1 U.S. Atty., 2 DIV.) 2 - Cincinnati 2 - Buffalo 		

would be in danger if her name was in any way mentioned or any of the facts which she might give relative to her association with Harry Domenfeld should be traced to her. Agent assured [redacted] that any information which she might give would be held strictly confidential and that her name would not be connected with the case in any manner whatsoever.

[redacted] stated that she was recommended to Mr. Harry Domenfeld at the time he was beginning the Medwell Publishing Company at 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City; that she continued in his employ for four years; that two years ago last December, Harry Domenfeld was fined \$500.00 and given three months in which to discontinue the publication of obscene literature in the State of New York, by the Magistrate's Court. [redacted] stated that this was of record in the Magistrate's Court in New York.

[redacted] further stated that after this time, Harry Domenfeld and Paul Sampliner formed the Independent News Corporation which was financially backed by Mrs. Frank, the mother of Harry Domenfeld; that Mrs. Frank's first husband was in the clothing and suit business in New York City.

[redacted] stated that she did not believe Domenfeld was connected with the culture of the Trojan Publishing Corporations, but that Paul Sampliner and Frank Armour were owners and publishers of these two companies. [redacted] stated that the International News Company distributed all the magazines of the publishing companies listed on Door #523 at 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City. She said that some of these magazines were "Real Screen Fun," "Spicy Adventures," "Spicy Detective Stories," "Spicy Mysteries," "Snappy People," "La Paree," and "Gay Parisian," also "Bed Time Stories;" that she knew all of these corporations to be incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware.

[redacted] further advised agent that she believed that it was because of this suit in the Magistrate's Court, that Harry Domenfeld was not connected with the publications of any of these magazines. [redacted] informed agent that the Medwell Publishing Corporation was still in existence; that it was in the nature of a holding company in that a large number of contracts had been formed under that name and that while it did not publish any magazines at this time, it did furnish supplies and materials to the other corporations.

71-11

[] stated that she did not know where the offices of the other corporations were, but that she thought that an examination of the records of the State Department, State of Delaware would reveal this.

[] informed agent that these magazines are sold in the Gypsy (Burlesque) Theatres throughout the country.

[] likewise informed agent that Harry Bonenfeld had been reared on the "East Side" with Bennie Fein who was a known gangster and racketeer in New York City and that his connections with him are known to her and that it is through him that Bonenfeld forces news stands to accept his publications.

At BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Mr. Phillip Meyer, Manager of the magazine concession at the Palace Theatre, Main Street, Buffalo, New York, stated that Oscar Marokovick, 681 Broadway, New York City purchased from a distributor in New York, a large number of magazines after they had been returned from the news stands throughout the United States; that among the publications found at the Palace Theatre were such publications as "Spicy People" "Gay Parisian" and "La Paree."

Reporting agent is of the opinion that information as to the distributor can be obtained from Marokovick in New York City.

Reporting agent wishes to state again the confidential nature of this information and advise that both the name of [] and the facts reported herein should be held in the strictest of confidence.

As the Buffalo Bureau Office does not have a complete file on instant case, it is being left to the discretion of the New York Bureau Office to set out appropriate leads in instant case.

Likewise, should the New York Office desire that [] be again interviewed, this office should be so advised.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

The BUFFALO BUREAU OFFICE, at BUFFALO, NEW YORK, will contact the Vice-Squad of the Buffalo Police Department and make such other investigation as appears appropriate.

- P E N D I N G -

Room 1403
520 Lexington Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Mr. F. W. H. Adams,
United States Attorney,
Old Post Office Building,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I am herewith transmitting to you, for Assistant United States Attorney Joseph Martin, three magazines the titles of which are:

"Spy Adventure Stories", dated May, 1935;
"Spy Detective Stories", dated May, 1935;
"Spy Mystery Stories", dated June, 1935.

The instant magazines are copies furnished this office by the original complainant in the above-entitled matter.

When these magazines have served their purpose, will you kindly see that they are returned to this office.

Very truly yours,

R. WHITLEY,
Special Agent in Charge.

NOV 13 1995

THEORY OF THE CASE

3 vols.

our Bureau.

FILE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, N.Y.**

Chicago FILE NO. **71-187**

REPORT MADE AT CHICAGO, ILL.	DATE WHEN MADE Nov. 8, 1935	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE Nov. 6, 1935	REPORT MADE BY M. E. GUNNEA MDP:JMS
TITLE CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE SHIPMENT OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Culture Publications, Inc. unknown to J.F. Snyder General Manager Cuneo Press, Chicago, who advises manuscripts of the Spicy group are forwarded to Wisconsin Cuneo Press, Milwaukee, Wisconsin by Trojan Publishing Company, where "tenaplates" are prepared, then forwarded to Cuneo Press, Chicago where they are printed and distributed to news dealers all over the United States by express, freight and truck, as per instructions of Trojan Publishing Company. Contracts signed by Frank Amar, Treasurer, Trojan Publishing Company.

R.U.C.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent O. F. Lanman, New York City, October 28, 1935.

DETAILS: Agent interviewed Mr. J. F. Snyder, General Manager, Cuneo Press, 32nd and Canal Streets, Chicago, Illinois who advised that prior to giving any further information he wanted it thoroughly understood that the Cuneo Press is merely the printer of the Spicy group and not the publisher. He stated that all instructions as to the printing and distribution of these magazines come directly from the Trojan Publishing Company, New York City, New York. He described the method of printing and distribution as follows:

The original manuscripts are forwarded from the Trojan Publishing Company at 125 East 48th Street, New York City, to the Wisconsin Cuneo Press, 4400 North Fort Washington Road, Milwaukee, Wisconsin which is

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT Bureau - 2 Milwaukee - 2 New York - 3 (U.S. Atty. G.D. - 1) Chicago - 2	71-768-18	NOV 11 1935
	NOV 11 A.M.	NOV 12 1935
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div><i>[Handwritten notes]</i></div> <div><i>[Initials]</i></div> <div><i>[Initials]</i></div> </div>		

a branch of the Cuneo Press in Chicago where "tenaplates" are prepared. For the information of the file a tenaplate is a thin metal impression of the type which has been set up for each page of the publication. These tenaplates are forwarded to the Cuneo Press where they are printed, bundled, and shipped as per monthly mailing lists supplied by the Trojan Publishing Company. Prior to the shipment of a publication the Trojan Publishing Company deposits with the Cuneo Press at Chicago an amount sufficient to cover express and freight charges. The Cuneo Press is also supplied monthly with a mailing list known as a "galley sheet", and labels which compare with the galley sheet, to put on each package shipped. Following the shipment of each publication the express and freight bills are marked paid and then forwarded by the Cuneo Press to the Trojan Publishing Company for the purpose of verifying the payment of the express charges.

Mr. Snyder exhibited to the Agent the January 1936 galley sheet for the Spicy Detective and it was observed that there are approximately 540 names and addresses included in this list. An examination of the address labels revealed that there is a return thereon listing the Spicy Mystery, 125 East 45th Street, New York, New York, with advice to the Postmaster that in the event the package is not called for within a period of three days it shall be returned to the above address. The Agent did not copy the mailing list due to the length of same, and also considering that this would not in itself be admissible as evidence until such time as the publications have actually been shipped. It will be noted that in the future if evidence of these shipments becomes necessary, it will be necessary for the Chicago office to check these shipments through the American Railway Express company and the various railroads. From the preceding information it is very evident that the Trojan Publishing Company has so arranged its transactions with the Cuneo Press in Chicago that after each shipment is completed there will be no evidence whatever left with the Cuneo Press.

Mr. Snyder advised that the only evidence remaining in their hands after having printed and shipped any one publication is their daily work sheet which merely contains the number of copies shipped, but gives no specific information whatever as to their eventual destination. Mr. Snyder also exhibited to the Agent copies of the contracts for these magazines which are drawn separately. These contracts call for the printing of 100,000 copies each and list the various specifications as to printing, paper, size, etc. These contracts were signed by one Frank Amer, Treasurer, Trojan Publishing Company, 125 E. 45th Street, New York City.

Mr. Snyder was questioned by the Agent as to whether he had had any business transactions with Harry Donenfeld, and he advised that he was under the impression that Donenfeld had previously done business with him, but was not sure whether or not he had entered into any contracts for previous publications. After a search of the files an old contract was located dated August 14, 1934, with the Mervil Publishing Company, 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City, for the publication of a magazine, and signed "Harry D". Mr. Snyder was under the impression that no doubt this person is Harry Donenfeld.

When examining the galley sheet it was noted by the Agent that there is listed thereon the name of the Central Forwarding Company, New York City, and to which there is a monthly shipment of 10,000 copies of the Spicy Mystery magazine sent. This information is being set out for the New York office in view of the fact that the office of prosecution in this matter will no doubt be New York.

Mr. Snyder further advised that the Spicy Detective magazine is at the present time being printed in two publications, one known as the "individual group" and one known as the "star group". He advised that even though he was not positive of the reason for the dual publications, he was of the belief that it was to comply with various State regulations. He stated that the "individual" publication is "toned down" while the "star" group is of the more obscene nature.

An attempt was made to learn who signed the checks for the Trojan Publishing Company but the only information that could be obtained from the Cuneo Press was from one of the clerks who advised that although they were not positive, to the best of their memory the checks were signed by Frank Armer, and drawn on the Central Bank of New York City.

Mr. Snyder was very cooperative in this matter and tendered to the Agent all information within his hands, the only request being made to the effect that no notations be taken as to prices quoted in the contracts. If in the future it is deemed advisable by the office of origin to obtain copies of the galley sheets, this no doubt can be done but will entail a considerable amount of work.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

MILWAUKEE OFFICE: At Milwaukee, Wisconsin will ascertain from the Wisconsin Cuneo Press, 4400 North Fort Washington Road, from whom and how the manuscripts for the Spioy group are received, and will obtain all information looking toward a possible prosecution in this matter, and the names of the proper persons to subpoena in the event that any of their records are deemed necessary.

NEW YORK OFFICE: At New York City will locate and ascertain from the New York Forwarding Company all pertinent information, and will ascertain from the Central Hanover Bank of New York the names and addressees of the persons maintaining an account there which is drawn on by Frank Arner.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK CITY**

FILE NO. **71-74**

REPORT MADE AT CINCINNATI, OHIO.	DATE WHEN MADE 11-9-35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11-9-35	REPORT MADE BY J. S. JOHNSON C.R.
TITLE CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Information obtained Cincinnati spicey group of magazines distributed by Sampliner, 420 Lexington Ave., New York City by express. Cincinnati distributor is J. Louis Mottz News Company. Copy of Agent G. F. Lehman's report dated at New York City 10-22-35 furnished Buffalo Office.

R.U.C.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent G. F. Lehman, New York City dated 10-22-35 and 11-8-35.

DETAILS:

AT CINCINNATI, OHIO.

Mr. Ed. Rosenthal, Publisher, Writers Digest, 22 East 15th Street, Cincinnati, Ohio was interviewed by Agent. He stated that he is also the publisher of the Writers Review at 1230 Jackson Street, but that this latter magazine is being discontinued due to financial reverses. His Writers Digest is a guide to amateur writers giving them information as to the type of material that is wanted by various magazines and publications. Mr. Rosenthal stated that he is not acquainted with the personnel of either the Trojan Publishing Company or the Culture Publications, Inc., nor does he know Mr. Rosenfield or others mentioned in the reference report of Agent Lehman dated 10-22-35.

He is acquainted, however, with the spicey group of magazines and at an expense of several thousand dollars he has put out a booklet known as the Writer's Market. In this booklet he has classified all the magazines and publications in this country as to contents and rate paid for material. Under the heading "Sex Magazines" he has listed the spicey group of magazines as follows:

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

<p>APPROVED AND FORWARDED:</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;"><i>E. J. Connelley</i></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</p> <p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-Bureau 1-New York City (1 U.S. Atty. S.D.N.Y.) 1-Buffalo aml. 1-Cincinnati 	<p>71-738-17</p> <p>NOV 11 A.M.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION</p>	<p>RECORDED AND INDEXED</p> <p>NOV 11 1935</p> <p>FILED</p> <p>NOV 12 1935</p>
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(1)

Spicey Adventure Stories, 900 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware. Mostly staff written.

(2)

Spicey Detective Stories, 900 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware - Lawrence Cadden - Editor.

Wants detective stories with a strong sex angle, 5,000 words or less. Rapid fire, two listed detective stories with deductive solutions. Reports on Manuscripts within two weeks and pays 1¢ a word on acceptance.

(3)

Spicey Mystery, 900 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware. Uses eerie and weird stories or any good mystery story with a sex angle. Lengths, 2500 to 5500 words - pays 1¢ a word on acceptance.

(4)

Spicey Stories - Dover, Delaware. Issued monthly. 25¢ a copy. Uses short, snappy stories with the sex angle emphasized. Lengths, 2000 to 3500 words; like simple plots, curious or unexpected and surprising endings. Plenty of dialogue. Pays 3¢ a word on publication.

Mr. Rosenthal stated that his information is that the spicey magazines have been denied mailing privileges and are shipped to Cincinnati via express or freight. He stated that the American News Company has declined to handle the distribution of these magazines and that they are handled by distributors in various cities. He advised that the Cincinnati distributor was the J. Louis Motz News Company, 616 East Court Street, which company is an independent distributor.

Mr. Rosenthal called Mr. Motz on the telephone and secured the information that the New York distributor of the spicey group of magazines is Sampliner, 420 Lexington Ave., New York City. Mr. Rosenthal stated that Sampliner would have the information as to the printers and publishers of the spicey group of magazines. He stated that he, himself, would be unable to state who are actually responsible for the printing or publication as that type of magazine is extremely secretive in such matters. He advised that if any further information is desired that he is able to supply he will be glad to do so.

In view of the comprehensive information furnished by Mr.

Rosenthal it was not thought advisable to interview Mott at this time or the various news dealers in Cincinnati, who secure these magazines from the Mott News Company. Such interview will be held in abeyance until requested by the office of origin.

A copy of the reference report of Special Agent C. F. Lannan, dated at New York City 10-22-35 is transmitted herewith to the Buffalo Office with its copy of this report.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE NEW YORK CITY OFFICE at New York City. Will contact Sampliner, 460 Lexington Ave., New York City as to the source, publication and printing of the spicer group of magazines, as well as to the manner in which these magazines are distributed to the trade by him.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK CITY DATE 11/2/35 FILE NO. 71-220 BY ET

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK CITY	DATE WHEN MADE 11/6/35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/1-6/35	REPORT MADE BY C. F. LAMMIE
TITLE WOMEN'S PUBLICATIONS, INC. GROGAN PUBLISHING COMPANY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS - FACTS:

Mrs. Myrtle Corey Foster interviewed at 55 Pacific Avenue, Passaic, N. J., advised she believed Mrs. Harry is located in Milledale, N.Y. at a spiritualistic settlement in that town; also advised possibility of locating Mrs. Harry through her mother, Mrs. Williams, who is prominent member of Eastern Star in Washington, D.C. also through cousin, Mrs. Rose Osborne, Eugene, Oregon. States possible information available regarding Harry Donaldson from William Davis, former editor of magazine "Round-up," who was located in New York City. Information received relative to fight between woman and unknown woman in N.Y.C. is also being furnished possibly lead to information on Donaldson.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent C. F. Lammie, New York City, dated 10/22/35.

DETAILS:

Agent ascertained that Mrs. MERLE JEREMY'S probable whereabouts could be ascertained from Mrs. MYRTLE COREY FOSTER, of 55 Pacific Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 71-712-96	RECORDED AND INDEXED NOV 7 - 1935
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 3 - Bureau 2 - Buffalo (Encl. 2) 2 - Cincinnati 3 - New York (U.S. Atty. S.J. N.Y. - 1)	UNITED STATES NOV 7 - A.M.	NOV 8 - 1935

At the above address, Agent interviewed Mrs. FOSTER with a view to locating Mrs. HERSEY. Mrs. FOSTER stated to Agent that she had not seen or heard from Mrs. HERSEY since last July, but that she was fairly certain that Mrs. HERSEY was located at this time at Lilydale, New York, which is near Fredonia, New York; that Mrs. HERSEY was living on some property owned by her mother, a Mrs. WILLIAMS. The community in which Mrs. HERSEY lives in Lilydale was described by Mrs. FOSTER as being some kind of spiritualistic settlement; in fact Mrs. FOSTER stated that she believes it is the main spiritualistic settlement in the United States.

After Agent made himself known to Mrs. FOSTER, she began to talk to him relative to Mrs. HERSEY'S past life. She stated to Agent that the last she heard of Mrs. HERSEY she was in a very bad financial condition; that she, Mrs. HERSEY, had for some time been receiving money from HARRY DOWENFELD of the Trojan Publishing Company because of what she knew about his business; that although it was not exactly blackmail, it amounted to pretty nearly the same thing, and DOWENFELD was afraid that Mrs. HERSEY would talk, thereby causing him difficulty with the police; that she, Mrs. FOSTER, is certain that Mrs. HERSEY knows everything concerning DOWENFELD'S activities.

The above information was given to Agent voluntarily by Mrs. FOSTER, and Agent did not divulge the fact that it was DOWENFELD'S publication that he, Agent, was investigating. However, Mrs. FOSTER took it for granted that it must be for this reason that the Bureau was attempting to locate Mrs. HERSEY. Agent said nothing to confirm Mrs. FOSTER'S impression.

Mrs. FOSTER further stated that Mrs. HERSEY'S mother, Mrs. WILLIAMS, is a prominent member of the Eastern Star in Washington, D.C., and that if Mrs. HERSEY is not located in Lilydale, New York, she could undoubtedly be located through her mother, Mrs. WILLIAMS, in Washington, D.C., who in turn could be located through the records of the Eastern Star in that city. However, Mrs. FOSTER was not sure of Mrs. WILLIAMS' first name, but believes it to be ELLA.

No lead is being set out to cover this angle of the investigation at this time pending investigation at Lilydale, New York.

Mrs. FOSTER stated that another relative of Mrs. HERSEY was a Mrs. ROSE OSBORNE, of Eugene, Oregon, a cousin; that she knows

that Mrs. HERSEY corresponds with this cousin regularly. No lead is being set out to cover this contact at this time, pending investigation at Lilydale, New York.

Mrs. FOSTER further stated that a WILLIAM COOK, former editor of a magazine known as the "Round-up", also has considerable information relative to Mrs. HERSEY and DORNFELD, and that WILLIAM COOK is located somewhere in the City of New York, and inasmuch as he, to quote Mrs. FOSTER, "hates Dornfeld", he undoubtedly would tell Agent all he knows concerning DORNFELD and Mrs. HERSEY. A lead is therefore being set out for the New York Bureau Office to locate WILLIAM COOK and question him concerning this matter.

Mrs. FOSTER also stated that DORNFELD had a "bunch of gorillas" working for him, whom he used to beat up magazine dealers when they would not handle his magazines, and who used to hang out in a saloon on 20th Street, between 6th and 7th Avenues, on the uptown side of the street near the Irving Press. On one occasion, some woman (whom DORNFELD was keeping) and DORNFELD got into an argument in this saloon, and the woman grabbed a carving knife and cut DORNFELD severely; that the police had had to interfere, and that the woman and DORNFELD were both arrested. A lead is therefore being set out for the New York Bureau Office to investigate the police records at New York City Police Headquarters, to determine who this woman is, with a view to locating her and questioning her concerning DORNFELD'S activities, on the chance that she and DORNFELD are no longer on friendly terms and she might be induced to talk.

For the information of the BUFFALO Office, copies of the reports of Special Agent C. F. Laman, New York City, dated 8/29/35 and 10/2/35 are being included with instant report for the Buffalo Office. When the Buffalo Office has no further need for these copies, they will return same to the New York Bureau Office. The Cincinnati Office is being requested to forward to the Buffalo Office for its use in conducting its investigation, a copy of the report of Special Agent C. F. Laman, New York City, dated 10/22/35.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

The BUFFALO OFFICE, at LILYDALE, NEW YORK, will endeavor to contact Mrs. MERLE HERSEY and question her closely concerning

71-229

DOHENFELD'S connection with the Trojan Publishing Company and the Culture Publications, Inc., and secure from her any information that might link these two concerns. It should be borne in mind that Mrs. HERSEY may not be inclined to talk about this matter due to the fact that she is supposed to have received money from DOHENFELD to keep quiet; also that she may be afraid that DOHENFELD, if he learned that she had said anything, might take steps to retaliate. She should be reassured that DOHENFELD will never secure any knowledge that she has given any information regarding his activities.

The CINCINNATI OFFICE, is requested to forward to the BUFFALO Office for its use in carrying out the lead set forth in this report, a copy of the report of Special Agent C. F. Lamm, New York City, dated 10/22/35.

The NEW YORK OFFICE, at NEW YORK CITY, will endeavor to locate WILLIAM COOK, former editor of the "Round-up" magazine, and question him concerning Mrs. HERSEY and DOHENFELD.

Will also have the records of the Police Department at New York City checked, to develop information regarding the alleged brawl engaged in by DOHENFELD and a woman companion in a saloon on 20th Street between 6th and 7th avenues on the uptown side of the street, to ascertain the woman's name and interview her for any information she might have concerning DOHENFELD.

- PENDING -

Room 1403,
390 Lexington Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

October 29, 1935

ATTN:
71-229

Special Agent in Charge,
Philadelphia, Pa.

RE: CHITRA PUBLICATIONS, INC.
INDIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.
Interstate Shipment of obscene
Literature.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with Bureau letter to this office dated October 22, 1935, a copy of which was directed to your office, I am submitting herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent G. F. [redacted], dated October 22, 1935, containing a lead for your office at Wilmington, Delaware.

Very truly yours,

R. WHITLEY,
Special Agent in Charge.

1 encl.

cc- Bureau

71-768	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
ONE	FIVE

LWB:LL
71-768

October 29, 1935

Special Agent in Charge,
New York, New York.

Re: CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC.
TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY
INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF
OBSCENE LITERATURE

Dear Sir:

Please be advised the Bureau desires that the
above investigation be given prompt and vigorous attention
and that an investigation report be submitted weekly.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

RECORDED

cc - Cincinnati
Chicago
Denver
Philadelphia

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
OCT 29 1935
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

71-768-15	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
OCT 30 1935 A. M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
	FILE

LFB:ER

October 26, 1935.

RECORDED

71-765 - 14

Special Agent in Charge,
New York, New York.

Re: Culture Publications, Inc.,
Trojan Publishing Company,
Interstate Shipment of
Obscene Literature.

Dear Sir:

It is noted that although the report of Special Agent G. F. Lannon, dated at New York City October 22, 1935, contains an undeveloped lead for the Philadelphia office, copies of the report were not submitted to that office.

Please forward promptly to the Philadelphia office copies of the report referred to, and in the future endeavor to avoid a recurrence of this and similar errors.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc-Philadelphia

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
OCT 26 1935
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK CITY

FILE NO. 91-82

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK CITY	DATE WHEN MADE 10/22/35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/11-12/35	REPORT MADE BY E. J. CONNELLEY
TITLE QUINCY HILLIARD, INC. TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY		CHARACTER OF CASE INDUSTRIAL ALLIANCE OF AMERICAN LITERATURE	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

Records of the County Clerk's Office, New York City, N. Y., reflect Trojan Publishing Company incorporated New York City December 27, 1933. District Attorney's Office, New York City, unable to give any information relative to suppression of mail matter. Referred agent to John Sumner, head of Society for Suppression of Vice who was also unable to furnish anything definite relative to Trojan Publishing Company or Editor Group of Magazines. Mr. Sumner suggested contact with former editor for Donaheld, head of Trojan Publishing Company, who, it is believed, may be able to furnish reliable information relative to Trojan Publishing Company's collection, with magazines.

REFERENCE

Report of Special Agent C. E. Lonsay, New York, N. Y., dated October 2, 1935.

AT NEW YORK

At the County Clerk's Office, New York City, agent secured the photostatic copy of the incorporation papers of the Trojan Publishing Company which reflect that the Trojan Publishing Company was incorporated December 27, 1933 in the city of New York, state of New York, by Harry Donaheld, Frank Lusk, and George Lusk.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED

A. Whitley
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:

- 2 - Chicago
- 1 - New York
- 1 - (B. L. Lusk)

RECEIVED

OCT 23 1935

OCT 21 1935

OCT 29 1935

NEW YORK FILE 71-229

The file containing the photostat copy of these papers of incorporation in the County Clerk's office is No. 111. This is included for future reference in the event that it is necessary to subpoena these papers.

At the office of the District Attorney, agent interviewed Mr. James Wilson, Assistant District Attorney, New York City, in connection with information that he had received regarding the suppression of the group of Spicy Magazines by the New York District Attorney's office a year or so ago. Mr. Wilson stated to agent that he had been instrumental in securing several convictions in connection with the publication of obscene literature but that in connection with the Spicy Group they had never been able to learn just who the publishers of these magazines were; that the only convictions that they were able to obtain in connection with these magazines were several convictions of news dealers who handled them but that it was his, Mr. Wilson's, opinion that if agent were to interview Mr. John Sumner who is the head of the Society for the Suppression of Vice located at 215 West 22nd Street that agent would be able to secure valuable information relative to the publication of the Spicy Group of Magazines. Mr. Wilson, therefore, arranged an appointment with Mr. Sumner for agent.

At 215 West 22nd Street, New York City, agent interviewed Mr. Sumner and was advised by him that he has very little information concerning the Spicy Group; that although these magazines show upon their title page that they are published by the Culture Publications, Inc., 900 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware, it is his personal opinion that they are really published by Harry Donesfeld, the head of the Trojan Publishing Company and that any connection between the Culture Publications, Inc. and the Trojan Publishing Company would be difficult to uncover inasmuch as Donesfeld does not wish it known that he is really the head of the Culture Publications, Inc. due to the obscene character of the magazines. Mr. Sumner stated to agent that it is his belief that if agent would locate a Miss Marie Hershey who was formerly the editor for Donesfeld and later associated with the Police Gazette but whose present whereabouts are now unknown by Mr. Sumner, he (agent) might be able to secure information that would link Donesfeld with the Culture Publications, Inc. inasmuch as he believes that Mrs. Hershey and Donesfeld, although formerly the best of friends, are now very bitter enemies due to some disagreement between the two some time ago. It is, therefore, quite possible that Mrs. Hershey might be inclined to divulge whatever information she may have regarding Donesfeld's activities in the magazine field.

NEW YORK FILE 71-289

It is also believed that by contacting newsdealers in various sections of the country, who are offering these magazines for sale they may possibly be able to furnish some information which will indicate whether or not these magazines are being shipped via mail, express, or freight, to them on the instructions of the Trojan Publishing Company; therefore, leads are being set out for the Chicago and Philadelphia offices to question local magazine distributors for the Spicy Detective, Spicy Adventure, and Spicy Mystery stories in an effort to determine what publishing company they are contracting with for the issuance of this group of magazines.

It is also noted that the Culture Publications, Inc. are incorporated under the laws of Delaware with offices at 505 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware and that the officers of the corporation are:

Mr. H. W. Kennedy, Jr., E. P. Crawford, and H. G. Brown.

A lead is being set out for the Philadelphia office to conduct appropriate investigation at Wilmington, Delaware to ascertain, if possible, who H. W. Kennedy, E. P. Crawford and H. G. Brown are, and whether or not they are merely fictitious characters used by Donenfeld to cover up his connection with the Culture Publications, Inc. or whether they are really the legitimate officers of this corporation.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK OFFICE

At New York, will conduct appropriate investigation to locate Mrs. Maria Hersey in New York City, and will, if advisable, question her concerning her knowledge of Harry Donenfeld's activities in connection with the Culture Publications, Inc.

Will also contact newsdealers in New York to ascertain whether or not any of them offer for sale the Spicy Group of magazines and if so what method is used in shipping them to the newsdealers by the publishers.

CHICAGO OFFICE

At Chicago, Ill., will contact Mr. J. F. Snyder, General Manager of the Danco Press, Inc., 22nd and Canal Streets, Chicago, Ill. and carry out the leads as set forth in reference report of October 28, 1933 and will ascertain the following information - i.e. - what manner the manuscripts from

NEW YORK FILE 71-289

Spicy Group are published, are received by the Cuneo Press; whether they come through the mail, or are sent by express, or in any other manner and if possible, secure the container in which the manuscripts were delivered to the Cuneo Press, and hold same in the Chicago Bureau file for possible future reference.

PHILADELPHIA OFFICE

At Wilmington, Delaware, will investigate the Culture Publications, Inc. Will endeavor to ascertain the identity of the three incorporators mentioned in instant report, and also conduct appropriate investigation amongst newsdealers in Wilmington and Philadelphia to develop the method used in delivering Spicy magazines to the newsdealers from the publishers.

CINCINNATI OFFICE

At Cincinnati, O., will contact the Writer's Digest publication located at 22 East 126th Street, Cincinnati, O., also the Writer's Review at 1400 Jackson Street, Cincinnati, O., and endeavor to secure from those publications any information they may have relative to the activities of the Culture Publications and the Trojan Publishing Company.

Also ascertain the number and name of the various publications offered by the above corporations if such is available.

Will also contact newsdealers in Cincinnati to ascertain whether or not any of them offer for sale the Spicy Group or magazines, and if so, what method is used in shipping them to the newsdealers by the publishers.

DENVER OFFICE

At Denver, Colorado, will contact publication known as the Author and Journalist located at 1637 Chicago Street, Denver, Colorado, and secure any information relative to the Culture Publications, Inc. and the Trojan Publishing Company.

NEW YORK FILE 71-829

ascertain the number and name of the various publications offered by the above corporations if such is available.

Will also contact newsmen in Denver, Colorado to ascertain whether or not any of them offer for sale the Spicy Group of Magazines and if so, what method is used in shipping them to the newsmen by the publishers.

For the information of the Philadelphia, Cincinnati and Denver offices, the Spicy Group of Magazines is believed to be a group of obscene publications that are being published by the Culture Publications, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware, which, in reality, is believed to be a subsidiary of the Trojan Publishing Company of New York City, and the New York Bureau office is desirous of establishing evidence to the effect that these magazines are being transferred in interstate commerce by the Trojan Publishing Company inasmuch as it has been learned that the Trojan Publishing Company is the company that has contracted with the printer for the printing of these magazines.

PENDING

October 7, 1935.

LNB:MO

RECORDED

71-768 -13

Special Agent in Charge,
New York, New York:

Re: Culture Publications, Inc.
Trojan Publishing Company;
Interstate Transportation of
Obscene Literature.

Dear Sir:

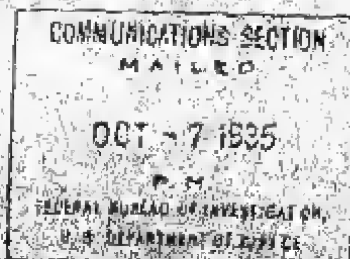
The Bureau has received the report of Special Agent G. F. Langan, dated at New York City, October 2, 1935, in which it appears that the facts of the above case are to be presented to the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York.

The Bureau believes that the presentation of the facts at this time to the United States Attorney is premature inasmuch as no evidence has been secured to indicate the interstate transportation of the magazines which appear to be published by the Culture Publications, Incorporated.

The Bureau desires that a thorough investigation be made to ascertain what magazines are presently being published and that copies of these be obtained to determine whether they are obscene and if they are being transported in interstate commerce. It is desired that when this information is secured the matter be presented to the United States Attorney with a view to securing a search warrant for the seizure of any obscene magazines which have been transported in interstate commerce by express or other common carrier.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK CITY

N.Y. FILE NO. 100-228

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK CITY	DATE WHEN MADE 10-12-35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9-27-35	REPORT MADE BY C. P. LADD
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TITLE Suggested: OCULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC. TROJAN PUBLISHING COMPANY	CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE
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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Vice-president in charge of the Neo-Graffiti Printing Company, 601 West 26th Street, New York City, advised magazines published by Cuneo Press, Inc., Chicago, Ill., are distributed in accordance with instructions received from Trojan Press, N. Y. C., with whom the Cuneo Press has a contract which expires in the early part of 1936.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent C. P. Ladd, New York City, dated 8-28-35.

DETAILS:

The title of this case is being changed to include the name of the Trojan Publishing Company. Details concerning the reason for this change will be set forth in the body of this report.

AT NEW YORK CITY:

Agent interviewed Mr. J. M. Stewart, vice president in charge of the Neo-Graffiti Printing Company plant, 601 West 26th Street, a subsidiary of the Cuneo Press, Inc., 22 and Canal Streets, Chicago.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i>	RECORDED AND INDEXED OCT 5 1935
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	CHICAGO OFFICE OCT - 9 1935
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO 2 Bureau 2 Chicago 2 New York (1-115, et al., 100-1) (Encl. 1)	RECEIVED OCT 10 1935

Illinois. Mr. Stewart stated to agent that in connection with the publication of the *Spy*, *Mystery*, *Spy*, *Adventure* and *Spy*, *Detective* Magazines, the Cuneo Press, Inc., is the publisher of these magazines and that they are published in Chicago, Ill., but that the contract for publishing these magazines was made by the Mac-Travre Printing Company in New York City and will expire within the next few months; that this contract was made with the Trojan Publishing Company, 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City, which address is also known as 125 East 46th Street, New York City; that the contract was signed by a man by the name of Sonnenfeld, who is the president of the Trojan Publishing Company; that in connection with the publication of these magazines, it is the custom of the Cuneo Press, Inc., of Chicago, Ill., to print and ship these magazines by express and freight to various distributors throughout the United States, who have been designated by the Trojan Publishing Company as distributors; that in connection with this distribution, it is the practice of the Cuneo Press, Inc., of Chicago, Ill., to furnish the Cuneo Press, Inc., of Chicago, Ill., with a monthly list of sub-distributors to whom these magazines are forwarded, and who, in turn, distribute them to the various news-dealers.

Upon questioning, Mr. Stewart stated that the name of Culture Publications, Inc., meant nothing to him or to the Cuneo Press, Inc., inasmuch as their contract for the printing of these magazines is with the Trojan Publishing Company and not with the Culture Publications, Inc., and he does not understand why the title page of the three above mentioned magazines shows the Culture Publications, Inc., as the publishers, unless it is that the Culture Publications, Inc., is a subsidiary of the Trojan Publishing Company.

Mr. Stewart stated that as a matter of fact, the proofs for these magazines are not read by anyone in his organization or in the Cuneo Press organization; that they are received directly from the publisher, turned over to the type setter, who prepares the type which prints them, after which they are bundled for distribution in accordance with the list furnished by the distributors.

Mr. Stewart further stated that the contract for the publication of the *Spy* group is on file in the Chicago Office of the Cuneo Press, Inc., and dated in the early part of 1930. It is noted that the Trojan Publishing Company is located

71-223

but the same address as which the Culture Publications, Inc. is supposed to have offices.

A copy of reference report is being forwarded to the United States Attorney, Southern District of New York, together with a copy of instant report.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

CHICAGO OFFICE, at Chicago, Illinois, will interview Mr. J. M. Snyder, General Manager, United Fruit, Inc., 22nd and Canal Streets, and secure all information possible concerning the delivery of above publications to various dealers throughout the United States.

NEW YORK CITY OFFICE, at New York City, will make appropriate investigation to determine where the Trojan Publishing Company is incorporated and who its officers are; also, what connection it has with the Culture Publications, Inc.

Will present the facts in this case to the United States Attorney, Southern District of New York.

PENDING

LNB:TD
71-768

September 23, 1935

Special Agent in Charge,
New York, New York.

Re: CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC.,
Interstate Transportation of
Obscene Literature.

Dear Sir:

A review of the Bureau's file in the above case indicates that the latest report was that of Special Agent C. F. Laman, dated at New York City, August 29, 1935.

The Bureau desires that the investigation be given prompt and vigorous attention and that a report thereon be submitted shortly. The Bureau desires that this case be given your close supervision and every effort made to locate where the magazines in question have been printed and to ascertain the identity of those persons responsible for their being printed and distributed, so that the matter may be presented to the United States Attorney for prosecution at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

71-768-12

SIP 100-100-100

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
SEP 23 1935
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[Handwritten signature]

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:TAM

September 10, 1935

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

The attached file entitled ⁰CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC.; Interstate Transportation of Obscene Literature, pertains to the investigation recently undertaken concerning the publication and interstate transportation of obscene magazines.

Respectfully,


E. A. Tamm

RECORDED

SEP 19 1935

71-768-11

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
SEP 10 1935 A.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
TAMM	ONE
FILE	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK CITY** FILE NO. **71-229**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK CITY	DATE WHEN MADE 8/29/35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8/26/35	REPORT MADE BY G. P. LAMAR
TITLE CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC.			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Charles A. Broderick, complainant, introduced Agent to U. W. Halston, Manager of Street & Smith Publications, N.Y.C., original complainant. Mr. Halston stated reason for complaint is that his four publications in question will bring disrepute upon entire magazine trade. He stated that sale of magazines has been suppressed in N.Y.C. but believes magazines are being sold elsewhere, also that men responsible for publication of magazines are publishing same under cover. Head of Art Dept., Street & Smith Publications, believes Cuneo Press, Inc., N.Y.C. is firm printing covers for magazines, and that this firm can give information relative to same. Independent Distributing Co. Inc. believed to be distributors for magazines.

- P -

REFERENCE:

Bureau letter dated July 17, 1935.

DETAILS:

This investigation predicated upon a letter from the Bureau dated July 17, 1935, together with copies of a letter from Mr. Charles

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	71-768-10	AUG 30 1935	SEP - 8 1935
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO (2) Bureau New York	AUG 30 A.M.	SEP - 8 1935	
ROUTED TO 		INDEXED 	

A. Broder, 72 Wall Street, New York City, relative to the future Publications, Inc., who are allegedly the publishers of Spicy Adventure Stories, Spicy Detective Stories and Spicy Mystery Stories.

Agent interviewed Mr. Charles A. Broder in his office, 72 Wall Street, New York City. Mr. Broder introduced Agent to Mr. H. W. Halston, Manager for Street & Smith Publishing Company located at 700 Avenue and 15th Street, New York City.

Mr. Broder explained to Agent that it was through Mr. Halston that he received the original complaint relative to the aforementioned publications, and suggested that Agent secure the facts from Mr. Halston relative to these publications.

Mr. Halston stated to Agent that the matter first came to his attention some time ago when he was given copies of these publications to examine. Mr. Halston stated that after examining these magazines he was of the opinion that the continued sale of such publications would materially affect the business of the better magazines of the cheaper class which deal in adventure stories and mysteries but contain clean stories. Mr. Halston is afraid that the continued publication of these magazines will result in the active participation of vice organizations to suppress all of the so-called pulp trade magazines, the name by which the cheaper 5¢, 10¢ and 15¢ monthly and semi-monthly publications dealing with romance, adventure and detective stories are known by.

Mr. Halston therefore took the matter up with Mr. Broder and his firm, who are the attorneys for Street & Smith Publishing Company, who in turn presented the matter to the Department of Justice for opinion.

Mr. Halston suggested that Agent go with him to his office where he could secure information that might be helpful to the Agent in locating the publishers of these magazines. Mr. Halston stated to Agent that sometime ago, the authorities in New York City suppressed the sale of these magazines in New York City, but at present they are being bootlegged on various newsstands throughout the city. Mr. Halston was unable to give the location of any newsstand at which he thought the sale of these magazines was going on. Mr. Halston further stated that he believed the magazines are now being published under cover and shipped out of New York to cities throughout the United States where it is permitted to sell them in the open market.

Mr. Ralston stated that it is not known by the magazine trade in New York City just who the publishers of these magazines are because of the fact that they are endeavoring to hide their identity so that no action can be taken against them. Further, that if these magazines are being sent through the United States mail, on the first few pages of the magazines, should appear the notation to the effect that the magazines have been entered as second, third or fourth class matter. Agent examined the exhibits contained in the New York Bureau Office file, and failed to find any such notation indicating that these magazines had been entered in the Post Office.

Mr. Ralston introduced Agent to Mr. W. H. Jones, head of the Art Department of Street & Smith, who stated that quite recently while at the office of the Cuneo Press, Inc., 959 Eighth Avenue, New York City, he saw some proof sheets containing printed covers for various magazines, and among them were several covers designed for use on instant magazines. Mr. Jones was of the opinion that if the Cuneo Press, Inc. was contacted, it could give information as to who the publishers of these magazines might be.

Mr. Ralston was also able to secure information to the effect that the Independent Distributing Company, Inc., Grand Central Building, New York City, which company is operated by a Mr. Paul E. Sampliner, is in all probability the distributing agency for these magazines, and that appropriate inquiry through this channel would reveal information as to the true publishers of these magazines.

Mr. Ralston stated to Agent that the editor of these magazines is one, Lawrence Gorman, 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City. At this address is also located the E. & M. Publications, which might have some connection with the publication of these magazines. Mr. Ralston suggested to furnish Agent with a typewritten manuscript of a suitable story that Agent could use in representing himself as an author at the office of Mr. Lawrence Gorman, 480 Lexington Avenue, with a view to securing information as to the identity of the publishers of these publications. This manuscript will be available for Agent's use within a few days.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD:

The NEW YORK OFFICE, at NEW YORK CITY, will ascertain the character of the Cuneo Press, Inc., 959 8th Ave. and interview appropriate parties of that organization to learn who they contracted with for the printing of the magazine covers.

Will also interview one who works in the New York City
authorities to secure information relative to the suppression of
these magazines, and learn the names of the parties responsible for
their publication at New York.

Will also conduct investigation of the Independent
Distributing Company, Inc., Grand Central Building, New York City, to
determine whether or not they are in fact distributors of these mag-
azines.

Upon receipt of manuscript from Mr. Ralston, Agent
will interview Mr. Lawrence Cadden, 480 Lexington Avenue, New York
City, under the pretext that Agent is the author of the manuscript,
and attempt to secure information as to who the publishers of these
magazines might be.

- PENDING -

BRODEK & EISNER

CHARLES A. BRODEK
LOUIS F. EISNER

TELEPHONE WHITENALL 4-3240
CABLE ADDRESS "WILGARDEN"

COUNSELORS AT LAW
72 WALL STREET
NEW YORK

July 15th 1935.

Honorable John Edgar Hoover, Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 13th instant
re "Spicy" magazines and shall be glad to cooperate with
the Agent in charge.

Very truly yours,

Charles A. Brodek

B/W

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RECORDED

LAB: L

71-168-8

July 13, 1936

Special Agent in Charge,
New York, New York.

Dear Sir:

There are inclosed for your information copies of a letter dated July 10, 1936, addressed to Mr. Charles A. Broder by the Bureau, together with the three publications referred to therein.

It is desired that Mr. Broder be interviewed at an early date concerning this matter, and that a report be submitted accordingly thereafter.

Copies of the opinion referred to in the letter to Mr. Brown, together with copies of a memorandum and the Certificate of Incorporation of Culture Publications, Inc., left at the Bureau by Mr. Broder during a recent visit, are forwarded herewith. The originals of the memorandum and certificate are also inclosed so that they may be returned to Mr. Broder.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure No. 319023

(No copies of 3 publications retained in Bureau file)

BRODEK & EISNER

CONSEJLORS AT LAW
74 WALL STREET
NEW YORK

CHARLES A. BRODEK
LOUIS B. EISNER
TELEPHONE WHITEHALL 4-5240
CABLE - GUNESB WLB:RDEP

July 13th 1935.

Honorable John Edgar Hoover, Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Supplementing my letter of the 11th instant re
"Spicy" magazines, I am informed that the office of the
publisher is now located at 80 Lafayette Street, this
city.

Very truly yours,

Charles A. Brodek

B/W

77-768-
JUL 23 1935
JUL 15 1935
ONE

BRODEK & EISNER

CHARLES A. BRODEK
LOUIS D. EISNER
TELEPHONE WHITEHALL 4-15240
CABLE ADDRESS "WILSON 7-15240"

COUNSELORS AT LAW
72 WALL STREET
NEW YORK

July 11th 1935.

Honorable John Edgar Hoover, Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your letter of June 26th 1935 relating
to the complaint filed against the publishers of the "Epicy"
magazines, will you kindly advise me whether the criminal
division of the Department has rendered an opinion upon this
subject.

Very truly yours,

Charles A. Brodek

B/π

RECORDED & INDEXED

AUG 6 1935

71-768-7

Handwritten signatures and stamps

BRODER & EISNER

MEMORANDUM RE "SPICY MAGAZINES"

We are submitting copies of three filthy magazines, to-wit, "Spicy Mystery Stories" (June, 1935, Vol. 1, No. 2), "Spicy Detective Stories" (May, 1935, Vol. 3, No. 1), and "Spicy Adventure Stories" (May, 1935, Vol. 2, No. 2).

These magazines are published by Culture Publications, Inc., a Delaware corporation with a nominal address at No. 900 Market Street, Wilmington, Del. We are submitting a copy of the certificate of incorporation of Culture Publications, Inc.

The magazines are sold throughout the United States, and like other magazines of similar nature, are bought chiefly by school boys and young men.

We annex extracts from various Writer's Journals as to the home address of "Spicy Magazines".

It is said that one Harry Wonenfeld is back of these publications. His home address is 110 Riverside Drive, New York City, telephone TRAfalgar 7-5831, and he is in partnership with one Frank Arner who used to be connected with the Eastern Distributing Co., which has since failed.

These magazines seem to be of the same type as "Brevities" which, we have been informed, was recently the subject of a Federal prosecution in Baltimore which resulted in conviction and prison sentence.

BRODER & EISNER,
72 Wall Street,
New York City.

Dated June 6th 1935.

62-35262-54

SPICY

May, 1934

WRITER'S DIGEST

Dear Editor:

Spicy Detective Stories uses thrilling, fast action, detective stories with a very strong element of sex in them. The sex angle must be an element of the story and strongly tied up with the plot, not just dragged in for the effect.

We use any length up to 7,000 words, preferring stories between three and five thousand.

We pay from half a cent to a cent, on acceptance, the rate being based on the merit of the individual story.

Cordially yours,
LAWRENCE CARMAN, Editor
Spicy Detective Stories
480 Lexington Ave., New York City,

(this firm is - or was - connected with Frank Armer. -Ed.)

JUNE, 1934

WRITER'S DIGEST

There is some misapprehension about the address of Frank Armer's magazines, Super Detective Stories and Spicy Detective Stories. The two addresses given on different pages of last month's WRITER'S DIGEST --

480 Lexington Avenue (Spicy Detective)
and
125 East 46th Street (Super Detective)

are different entrances of the same building. Either one is okay.

62-75762-5X

SEPTEMBER, 1934

WRITER'S DIGEST

Frank Armer's plans for a new Western adventure book have been postponed somewhat. He edits Super Detective Stories and Spicy Detective Stories at 125 E. 40th Street.

WRITER'S AND SCREEN REVIEW

Writers desiring to submit to Spicy Detective Magazine of the Trojan Publications at 125 East 40th Street, NYC, should write to the editor for his latest form letter covering details of certain new restrictions and limitations. The magazine is being toned down a little and the latest confidential bulletin issued by Trojan gives the complete picture.

OCTOBER, 1934

WRITER'S DIGEST

(Super-Detective is the only magazine edited by Frank Armer now, and the address remains 125 East 40th Street.)

Lawrence Odman is the new editor of the "Spicy" list--Spicy Adventure Stories, Spicy Detective Stories, and Spicy Stories. These are all now giving a new address at 900 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware. This same new Delaware address is given now for the Merril group of sex story magazines--which has changed its title to the D. M. Publishing Company.

NOVEMBER, 1934

WRITER'S AND SCREEN REVIEW

Spicy Detective Magazine got an unexpected write-up in a recent NEW YORKER MAGAZINE.

DECEMBER, 1934

AUTHOR & JOURNALIST

Item in Literary Market Tips gathered monthly from
authoritative sources:

Spicy Adventure Stories and Spicy Detective
Stories should be addressed at 125 E. 45th
Street, New York, instead of Wilmington, Del.
Mail sent to the latter address is returned
as unclaimed by the post office.

Taken from Handy Market List:

SPICY ADVENTURE STORIES (Culture Pubs.)
125 East 45th Street,
New York.

Monthly...Exotic adventures involving girls
and sex, short stories up to 3000. Lawrence
Cushman. Up to 10,000.

SPICY DETECTIVE STORIES (Culture Pubs.)
125 East 45th Street,
New York.

Monthly, 20¢. Thrilling detective short-
stories up to 6000, strong sex elements. Lawrence
Cushman. Up to 10,000.

.....

APRIL, 1935

WRITER'S REVIEW

Spicy Mystery at Wilmington, Delaware, is wide open and
prefers writers to write regularly. The same writer can
appear in the same issue under different pen-names if his
stuff is good.

MAY, 1935

WRITER'S REVIEW

... the terror type of story with a sex angle can be tried on Spicy Mystery, published at Wilmington, Delaware, 900 Market Street.

WRITER'S DIEST

Culture Publications, Inc., and the head of that business is a man with a sense of humor, wires us that all the material for the Spicy group, and the new Snappy group is either staff written or assigned. The address is 900 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware. Their New York office is closed.

The Spicy group sells for 25¢ and includes Spicy Adventures and Spicy Detective, both very racy magazines. The new Snappy group at 15¢ is probably Culture's effort to beat competition by issuing its own competition first. The magazines all carry illustrations similar in technique to the sex books. Better see a copy first, and then query before submitting. We have had no complaints on payment.

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
OF
CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC.

* * *

FIRST: The name of this corporation is
CULTURE PUBLICATIONS, INC.

SECOND: Its principal office in the State of Delaware is to be located at 900 Market Street, in the City of Wilmington, County of New Castle, and the name and address of its resident agent is CORPORATION FISCAL COMPANY, INC., 900 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware.

THIRD: The nature of the business and the objects and purposes to be transacted, promoted and carried on are to do any or all of the things herein mentioned as fully and to the same extent as natural persons might or could do, and in any part of the world, viz:

Generally to carry on the business of owning, distributing and publishing books, newspapers, magazines, and other periodicals; and in connection therewith to carry on the business of publishers, printers, bookbinders, photographers, lithographers, engravers, news agents, journalists, literature agents, stationers, advertising agents, and such other businesses or manufactures as may be convenient or necessary; to purchase, build, lease, construct, or otherwise acquire such buildings, offices, plants and machinery as may be necessary or useful to carry out the objects and purposes of this corporation.

To purchase, take, own, hold, deal in, mortgage or otherwise lien and to lease, sell, exchange, convey, transfer

62-35742-5X

or in any manner whatever dispose of real property, within or without the State of Delaware; to manufacture, purchase or otherwise acquire and to hold, own, mortgage or otherwise lien, pledge, lease, sell, exchange, transfer or in any manner dispose of, and to invest, deal and trade in and with goods, wares, merchandise and personal property of any and every class and description, within or without the State of Delaware; to acquire the good will, rights and property and to undertake the whole or any part of the assets and liabilities of any person, firm, association or corporation; to pay for the same in cash, the stock of this company, bonds or otherwise; to hold or in any manner to dispose of the whole or any part of the property so purchased; to conduct in any lawful manner the whole or any part of any business so acquired and to exercise all the powers necessary or convenient in and about the conduct and management of such business; to guarantee, purchase or otherwise acquire, hold, sell, assign, transfer, mortgage, pledge or otherwise dispose of shares of the capital stock, bonds or other evidences of indebtedness created by other corporations and while the holder of such stock to exercise all the rights and privileges of ownership, including the right to vote thereon, to the same extent as a natural person might or could do; to purchase or otherwise acquire, apply for, register, hold, use, sell or in any manner dispose of and to grant licenses or other rights in and in any manner deal with patents, inventions, improvements, processes, formulas, trade-marks, trade names, rights and licenses secured under letters patent, copyrights or otherwise; to enter into, make and perform contracts of every kind for any lawful purpose, without limit as to amount, with any person, firm, association or corporation, town, city, county, state, territory or government.

To draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, execute and issue promissory notes, drafts, bills of exchange, warrants, debentures and other negotiable or transferable instruments; to issue bonds, debentures and other negotiable or transferable instruments; to issue bonds, debentures or obligations and to secure the same by mortgage, pledge, deed of trust or otherwise; to purchase, hold, sell and transfer the shares of its capital stock; to have one or more offices and to conduct any or all of its operations and business and to promote its objects within or without the State of Delaware, without obligation as to place or amount; to carry on any other business in connection therewith; to do any or all of the things herein set forth as principal, agent, contractor, trustee or otherwise, alone or in company with others; the objects specified herein shall except where otherwise expressed, be in no way limited nor restricted by reference to

or inference from the terms of any other clause or paragraph of this Certificate of Incorporation.

The foregoing shall be construed both as objects and powers and the enumeration thereof shall not be held to limit or restrict in any manner the general powers conferred on this corporation by the laws of the State of Delaware.

FOURTH: The total authorized capital stock of this corporation is One Hundred (100) shares of Common Stock without nominal or par value.

FIFTH: The minimum amount of capital with which the corporation will commence business is One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000).

SIXTH: The name and place of residence of each of the incorporators is as follows:

NAME	RESIDENCE
E. W. Kennedy, Jr.	Wilmington, Delaware
E. P. Crawford	Wilmington, Delaware
H. G. Brown	Wilmington, Delaware

SEVENTH: The corporation is to have perpetual existence.

EIGHTH: The private property of the stockholders shall not be subject to the payment of corporate debts to any extent whatever.

NINTH: In furtherance and not in limitation of the powers conferred by the laws of the State of Delaware, the board of directors is expressly authorized: to make, alter and amend the by-laws; to set apart out of any of the funds of the corporation available for dividends a reserve or reserves for any proper purpose and to alter or abolish any such reserve, and to authorize and cause to be executed mortgages and liens upon the property and franchises of this corporation; to designate, by resolution passed by a majority of the whole board, one or more committees, each to consist of two or more directors, which committees, to the extent provided in such resolution or in the by-laws of the corporation, shall have and may exercise any or all of the powers of the board of directors in the management of the business and affairs of this corporation and have power to authorize the seal of this corporation to be affixed to all papers which may require it; from time to time to determine whether and to what extent and at what times and places and under what conditions and regulations the books and accounts of this

corporation, or any of them other than the stock ledger, shall be open to the inspection of the stockholders, and no stockholder shall have any right to inspect any account or book or document of the corporation, except as conferred by law or authorized by resolution of the directors or of the stockholders.

This corporation may in its by-laws confer powers additional to the foregoing upon the directors, in addition to the powers and authorities expressly conferred upon them by law.

TENTH: If the by-laws so provide, the stockholders and directors shall have power to hold their meetings, to have an office or offices and to keep the books of this corporation (subject to the provisions of the statute) outside of the State of Delaware at such places as may from time to time be designated by the by-laws or by resolution of the directors.

ELEVENTH: This corporation reserves the right to amend, alter, change or repeal any provision contained in this Certificate of Incorporation in the manner now or hereafter prescribed by law and all rights conferred on officers, directors and stockholders herein are granted subject to this reservation.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, for the purpose of forming a corporation under the laws of the State of Delaware, do make and file this certificate, and do certify that the facts herein stated are true; and we have accordingly hereunto set our respective hands and seals this 30th day of January A.D. 1923.

H. W. Kennedy, Jr. (Seal)

E. P. Crawford (Seal)

H. G. Brown (Seal)

STATE OF DELAWARE } ss.
NEW CASTLE COUNTY }

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 30th day of January A.D. 1923 personally appeared before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public for the State and County aforesaid, H. W. Kennedy, Jr., E. P. Crawford and H. G. Brown, all the parties to the foregoing Certificate of Incorporation, known to me personally to be such, and severally acknowledged the said Certificate of Incorporation to be their act and deed, and that the facts herein stated are truly set forth.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of office the day and year aforesaid.

Frank E. Haley

Notary Public

FRANK E. HALEY
NOTARY PUBLIC
APPOINTED
AUGUST 30, 1922
TERM FOUR YEARS
STATE OF DELA-
WARE

LWB:LL
62-36088-5

RECORDED

JUN 22 1936

71-768-5

Mr. Charles A. Swodak,
c/o Frank A. Elmer,
Chancellor at Law,
24 Wall Street,
New York, New York.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated June 25, 1936, addressed to Mr. E. A. Tamm of this Bureau, inquiring if any conclusion has been reached concerning whether "Spicy Adventure Stories", "Spicy Detective Stories", and "Spicy Mystery Stories", which publications you left at this office, constitute a violation of any Federal criminal statute within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau.

On June 26, 1936, I advised you the matter was being referred to the Criminal Division of the Department, for an opinion, and it appears that my letter was sent to you prior to the receipt of your letter of June 25, 1936.

The Bureau has been informed by the Criminal Division of the Department that the publications referred to may constitute a violation within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 395 and 396, United States Code Annotated. In view of the opinion of the Department, I am referring this matter to Mr. E. E. Connelley, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, 300 Lexington Avenue, Room 1403, New York, New York, who will have an Agent call upon you for further information relative thereto.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.



BRODEK & EISNER

CHARLES A. BRODEK
LOUIS P. EISNER
TELEPHONE WHITEHALL 4-3240
CABLE ADDRESS "WILHARDEN"

COUNSELORS AT LAW
72 WALL STREET
NEW YORK

June 25th 1935.

Honorable E.A. Tamm, Assistant Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Tamm:

Will you kindly advise me whether
you have reached any conclusion in the matter about
which I conferred with you on the 6th inst. and wrote
to you on the 17th inst.

RECORDED

JUL 22 1935

Very truly yours,

Charles A. Brodek

B/R

6-27-35 2:13 PM

607

11-768-5

RECEIVED
JUL 22 1935
ONE

07

RECEIVED

June 26, 1935

71-768-4

Mr. Charles A. Bradak,
c/o Bradak & Kiser,
72 Wall Street,
New York, New York.

Dear Sir:

With reference to your communication of June 17, 1935, addressed to Mr. E. A. Tamm of this Bureau, relating to your interest in the complaint filed against the publishers of the "Spicy" magazines, you are advised that this matter has been referred to the Criminal Division of the Department for appropriate consideration, in order that it may be determined whether the interstate transportation of these magazines constitutes a violation of any Federal Statute within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau. As soon as the Criminal Division of the Department has rendered an opinion upon this subject, I will advise you.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

RECEIVED
JUN 27 1935
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

[Handwritten signature]

BRODEK & EISNER

CHARLES A. BRODEK
LOUIS P. EISNER
TELEPHONE WHITFALL 4-5200
CABLE ADDRESS "WILGARDEN"

COUNSELORS AT LAW
72 WALL STREET
NEW YORK

June 17th 1935.

ah
Honorable E.A. Tamm, Assistant Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Tamm:

On the 8th instant I had a conference with
you in reference to the "Spicy" magazines and shall appre-
ciate it if you will let me know the result of your prelim-
inary consideration of the case.

RECORDED

Very truly yours,

JUN 28 1935

JUN 18 1935

B/W

1/2
W. H. Tamm
7-768-4

1
LATITAM

LATITAM

44-468-3

June 11, 1935

RECORDED

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, REEHR

Transmitted herewith are copies of several magazines, which are the subject matter of a complaint received at the Bureau, in which it is alleged that the interstate transportation of these magazines constitutes a violation of the criminal statutes relating to the transportation of obscene or law documents or printing. The alleged obscene statements in these magazines have been indicated by blue pencilled lines. It is requested that you advise whether the publication and interstate transportation of these magazines constitutes a violation of any Federal Criminal Statutes within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau.

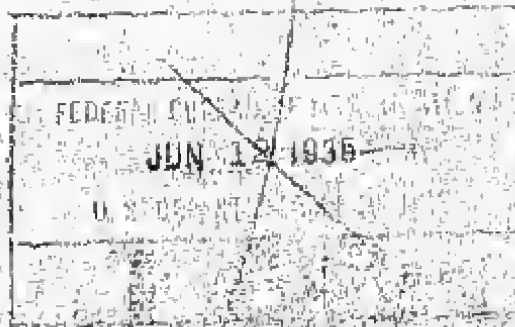
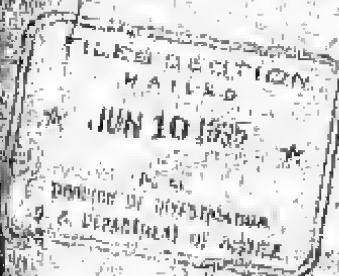
The magazines transmitted herewith are as follows:

- ✓ "Spicy Adventure Stories" for May
- ✓ "Spicy Detective Stories" for May
- ✓ "Spicy Mystery Stories" for June

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure *fw* 712598



JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

June 6, 1935

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Charles A. Brodek of the firm of Brodek and Eisner, 77 Wall Street, New York City, called at my office as a result of a letter which he had addressed to the Bureau, requesting an appointment for an interview. Mr. Brodek is the General Counsel for Street and Smith of New York City, publishers of a large number of magazines, books, etc.

Mr. Brodek had in his possession copies of three magazines, which he states are currently being sold throughout the United States, and which he believes to be of such a lewd and obscene character as to make their interstate transportation a violation of the Criminal Statutes governing this subject. Mr. Brodek desired that the Bureau conduct such appropriate investigation into the publication and interstate transportation of these magazines as could be justified by all of the facts in the case.

I explained the Bureau's jurisdiction to Mr. Brodek, and informed him that while the Bureau had investigative jurisdiction in cases involving the interstate transportation of obscene literature, it would appear that there would be at least a legal question as to whether the contents of the magazines which he possessed were of such a character as to bring them within the definition - obscene or lewd. I informed Mr. Brodek that we would refer the magazines in question to the Criminal Division of the Department for an expression of opinion as to whether the interstate transportation of these magazines is a violation of the criminal statutes presently existing.

For your information, there is a statute which penalizes the interstate transportation by express or other common carrier, of lewd or obscene documents, books, printings.

A memorandum addressed to the Criminal Division is attached hereto, transmitting the magazines mentioned by Mr. Brodek, and requesting an opinion upon the legal question involved.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm

RECORDED

JUN 14 1935

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

1235

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

903AM

WESTERN UNION

D. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

STANDARD TIME

The time shown in the date line is A.M. or P.M.
WK2 28 4 EXTRA XU=CD NEWYORK NY JUNE 5 1935 833AM

HON JOHN EDGAR HOOVER=
US DEPT OF JUSTICE=

REFER YOUR LETTER MAY TWENTY NINTH TO COLONEL CHANTLAND
WOULD LIKE CONFERENCE TOMORROW MORNING WITH YOU OR ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR IN CHARGE OF INVESTIGATIONS=

CHARLES A BRODEK SEVENTY TWO WALL STREET.

RECORDED

JUN 10 1935

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

Mr. Nathan	
Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

44-042

44-1446-2

RECORDED & INDEXED

May 29, 1935

11-768-1

Colonel William T. Chantland,
Federal Trade Commission,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel Chantland:

I have received your letter of May 21, 1935, transmitting a letter addressed to you under date of May 15, 1935 by Mr. Charles A. Brodek of New York City, in which Mr. Brodek requests the arrangement of an interview with me. While my commitments are such at the present time that I cannot make a definite appointment, in view of emergency conditions, I believe it would be appropriate to say that in the event Mr. Brodek calls at the Bureau when in Washington I will be glad to see him, if possible, and if circumstances do not permit I will see that he has an interview with the Assistant Director in charge of investigations, who will be glad to discuss any matter pertaining to an investigation of a violation of a Federal statute within this Bureau's investigative jurisdiction.

I am returning herewith the original letter addressed to you by Mr. Brodek.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #703023.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

Wm. Keen

MAILED
MAY 31 1935
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE